

# **United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**

## **NGO Action News**

**11 May 2023**

### **Middle East**

- On 10 May, [Al Mezan](#) published an article on the use of drones by Israel to conduct military operations in Gaza. The article informed that the sound of those drones flying over Gaza creates a constant state of terror, panic, and anxiety among the more than two million Palestinians living in the Strip. Al Mezan called on the international community to put pressure on Israel to immediately stop its military attack on the Strip, re-open the crossings, lift the closure and blockade, and provide protection for Palestinian civilians.
- On 10 May, [Hurriyat](#) Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights published an article on the issue of access to Al-Aqsa for Palestinian worshippers and on the freedom of movement and religion in East Jerusalem under Israeli occupation. The article provides a background on the holy sites in Jerusalem and on the recent violations of the status quo.
- On 9 May, [Al Shabaka](#) published the policy brief “Harnessing Open-Source Intelligence for Palestinian Liberation”. The article says that open-source intelligence is changing the way information is shared across the world. While increasingly credited as a means to expose war crimes and human rights violations, it is also being used as a tool for entrenching state oppression. In this policy brief, US Policy Fellow Tariq Kenney-Shawa examines the revolutionary technology and offers recommendations for how to harness it for Palestinian liberation.
- On 9 May, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) informed that 13 Palestinians, including 4 women and 4 children; one of whom a 17-year-old girl, in addition to 3 commanders of Palestinian armed groups with some of their family members were killed during a series of simultaneous airstrikes by Israel that targeted 4 residential apartments. Moreover, 18 other Palestinians have been injured, including 4 women and 4 children. PCHR condemned this attack and is concerned that it may continue and escalate, especially in light of the measures announced by Israel, including the closure of crossings with Gaza and security measures in Israeli compounds adjacent to Gaza, indicating that the aggression might extend. [Al Mezan](#) and [Al-Haq](#) called on the international community to intervene promptly.
- On 8 May, [BADIL](#) held an event on the sidelines of the 43rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. The event was entitled “UPR of Israel: 75 years of denial of the Palestinian people’s rights to self-

determination and return”. BADIL stressed the importance for States to adopt a rights-based decolonization approach as the framework for achieving the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and holding Israel accountable under international law. On this occasion, BADIL showed for the first time during the event a new film titled “[75 Years of Ongoing Nakba](#).”

- On 8 May, [Al-Haq](#) launched a multimedia platform that analyzed two deadly Israeli attacks on Jenin and Nablus in January and February of this year. By geo-locating and using original and exclusive footage collected by Al-Haq from Jenin and Nablus within hours of the raids, this interactive platform shows how the Israeli Forces repeatedly used undercover soldiers in civilian disguise to infiltrate the urban fabric of Palestinian cities and refugee camps.
- On 8 May, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli government ordered the Nature and Parks Authority to submit a development plan for the archaeological site of Sebastiya. The development plan involves paving a road to provide Israeli access to the site and transforming it into a tourist attraction that is open to the public. The site is located partly in Area B and partly in Area C, adjacent to the Palestinian village of Sebastiya, and is surrounded by Palestinian towns and villages. According to Peace Now, turning Sebastiya into a tourist attraction will increase the presence of settlers in the area, which will inevitably lead to a more significant military presence and, thus, also an increase in friction and violence.
- On 8 May, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) published a statement to express its grave concern over the decision of the World Food Program (WFP) to suspend food aid to over 200,000 Palestinians, which is 60% of its current case load, from June due to a severe shortage of funds. PCHR warned of the implications of the WFP’s decision to decrease the number of Palestinian beneficiaries, and its impact on the high food insecurity rates and the deterioration of the economic and social conditions of the poor. PCHR also urged the UN humanitarian agencies to provide the funding necessary for the operation of the WFP and other humanitarian programs in Palestine.

### **Asia and Europe**

- On 8 May, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine](#) (ECCP) sent a letter to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, concerning her statement issued on the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. ECCP accused von der Leyen of omitting facts and erasing the history, memory and rich culture of the indigenous Palestinian people, with their diversity, who have inhabited Palestine for centuries.

### **North America**

- On 8 May, [Americans for Peace Now](#) published an article titled “The Life, Final Hunger Strike, and Death of Khader Adnan.” In this article, Yossi Alpher, an independent security analyst, examined the death by hunger strike of Palestinian prisoner Khader Adnan. In particular, the article shed light of the use by Israel of administrative detention of Palestinians without trial.
- On 8 May, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast “Shireen Abu Akleh: Her Life, Legacy, and the Continuing Fight for Justice.” FMEP’s Lara Friedman spoke with preeminent journalist Dalia Hatuqa on the 1-year anniversary of the killing of her friend and fellow journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, including reflections on the continued efforts to secure justice and accountability for Abu Akleh’s death and the preservation of her legacy.
- On 7 May, [J Street](#) issued a statement criticizing the Israeli authorities for the demolition of a Palestinian school in the West Bank community of Jubbet adh-Dhib, which was carried out in violation of international law. The statement reads that this school was constructed with funding from the European Union and was used by dozens of students. J Street also argued that this demolition is the latest example of how the occupation treats virtually all Palestinian construction and development in Area C of the West Bank as illegal, and works to prevent Palestinians in occupied territory from living normal, autonomous lives.

### **United Nations**

- On 15 May, the [UN Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP) will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba at UN Headquarters in New York. For the first time in the history of the UN, this anniversary will be commemorated pursuant to the mandate by the General Assembly (A/RES/77/23 of 30 November 2022). The CEIRPP will organize a High-Level Special Meeting on 15 May 2023, from 10 am to 12.30 pm (NY Time) in Conference Room 4. A Special Commemorative Event will be held in the General Assembly Hall from 6 pm to 8 pm (NY Time). The event will bring to life the Palestinian journey and will aim at creating an immersive experience of the Nakba through live music, photos, videos, and personal testimonies.
- On 9 May, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, stated he was alarmed by developments in Gaza after Israel launched a military operation targeting members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement (PIJ). The Israeli airstrikes inside Gaza resulted in the killing of 13 Palestinians, including three members of PIJ, a doctor, five women and four children, and more than 20 injured. The UN Special Coordinator condemned the deaths of civilians in the Israeli airstrikes and urged all concerned to exercise maximum restraint and avoid an escalation.
- On 9 May, [UNISPAL](#) published its April 2023 Monthly Bulletin “Action by UN System and Intergovernmental Organizations Relevant to the Question of Palestine”.
- On 8 May, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, issued a statement saying he was deeply disturbed by the 7 May demolition by Israeli authorities of an EU-funded Palestinian primary school for the children of Jubbet adh Dhib

village, east of Bethlehem, in Area C of the occupied West Bank, directly affecting the education of at least 40 children. Currently, 58 schools, serving 6,500 children, face the threat of demolition due to a lack of building permits that are almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain. Tor Wennesland further stated that a child's right to education must be respected and called on Israeli authorities to cease such demolitions and evictions which are illegal under international law.

*This newsletter informs about recent and upcoming activities of Civil Society Organizations affiliated with the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the UN Secretariat provide the information "as is" without warranty of any kind, and do not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy, or reliability of the information contained in the websites linked in the newsletter.*



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