

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

NGO Action News

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Middle East

- On 17 May, [Ir Amim](#) informed that the Israeli authorities had confirmed that the so-called Jerusalem Day Flag Parade would proceed as planned through Damascus Gate and the Muslim Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, in East Jerusalem, on 18 May. The flag parade, a nationalist march through the Old City of Jerusalem that marks the 1967 capture of East Jerusalem, has increasingly become a display of anti-Palestinian incitement and Jewish supremacy and triumphalism. According to Ir Amim, permitting such a parade to pass through Damascus Gate and the Muslim Quarter is therefore liable to inflame tensions and escalate hostilities.
- On 17 May, [Peace Now](#) informed that plans for the construction of 613 housing units in settlements are expected to be advanced by Israeli authorities, including a tender for the construction for “Ariel West”, a new settlement adjacent to the Palestinian city of Salfit, located north of Ramallah. These plans also include the construction of 554 housing units in Givat Ze’ev, an Israeli settlement located north of Jerusalem.
- On 15 May, several organizations published articles and statements to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakba. [Al Haq](#) and the [Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies](#) published a statement informing that 70 massacres were carried out against innocent civilians, killing more than 15 thousand Palestinians between 1947 and 1949, adding that about two-thirds of the Palestinian people became refugees. Al Haq further called on States, the UN, international organisations and civil society organisations to take effective legal and political measures to bring perpetrators of suspected war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice. [Badil](#) informed that the number of Palestinians in the world has increased exponentially since the Nakba and called for the right of return of [refugees](#) to be respected. The [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) published stories on the Nakba by authors who participated in a special workshop. [Al Mezan](#), the [Palestinian Return Center](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) and [Physicians for Human Rights](#), among many other organisations, published articles to commemorate this anniversary as well.
- On 13 May, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) called on the International Criminal Court Prosecutor to issue a public statement condemning the ongoing Israeli military operation on the Gaza Strip and expedite his investigation into the situation in Palestine. PCHR stated that the situation in Palestine should be prioritized by the ICC due to the scale and enormity of the crimes that have been and still being committed.

- On 11 May, [Gisha](#) and other human rights organizations sent an urgent letter to Israeli authorities, calling on them to stop the targeting of civilians in Gaza and to enable humanitarian access immediately. The organizations also stated that security challenges, including risks posed during active hostilities, do not exempt Israel from its humanitarian obligations to residents of Gaza. [Physicians for Human Rights](#) also published a letter calling on Israel to halt the attacks on civilian populations and targets in Gaza and open the crossings for humanitarian emergencies.

Asia and Europe

- On 16 May, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) (PRC) held a webinar entitled “Ongoing Nakba at 75: Palestinians Demand Right of Return”. Panelists stressed that Palestinians continue witnessing the Nakba in a myriad of Israeli policies of forced displacement and colonialism, such as looting of natural resources, annexation, repression, denial of residency, segregation, fragmentation and isolation, home demolitions, and the imposition of discriminatory planning and permit systems.
- On 11 May, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) (NRC) issued a press statement on the recent escalation in the Gaza Strip, calling on all parties to declare an immediate ceasefire to spare lives. NRC added that indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Gaza and Israel must stop. Israel must abide by international law and distinguish between civilians who directly participate in hostilities and those who do not or no longer do. NRC also stated that there is hardly a home or a street in Gaza that has not seen death or destruction. Poverty and unemployment are on the rise as endless cycles of violence push people to the breaking point

North America

- On 24 May, the [Palestine Center](#) will organize the annual Hisham Sharabi Memorial Lecture. This event honors the life and legacy of the late Professor Hisham Sharabi, the founder of The Jerusalem Fund and Palestine Center. Bassam Haddad, Associate Professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University, will be the keynote speaker. Professor Haddad’s lecture will focus on the intertwined themes of anti-imperialism and anti-authoritarianism, particularly as they relate to Syria and Palestine amid more than a decade of uprising, counterrevolution, and international intervention.
- On 18 May, [The Jerusalem Fund](#) will organize the event “Remembering the Nakba, Preparing for Return.” Dr. Abdul-Ghaffar Musa, born in the village of Abassiya in 1939, experienced the Nakba firsthand as an eight-year-old in 1948. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba, The Jerusalem Fund and Palestine Center will host a conversation featuring Dr. Musa and his daughter, human rights attorney Jumana Musa. They will discuss Dr. Musa’s experience witnessing the Nakba, the expulsion of his family from Abassiya, and his enduring desire to return after decades of dispossession and exile.

- On 16 May, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast “Palestinian Hunger Striking and Defiance of Israel’s Carceral Regime.” FMEP non-resident Fellow Maha Nassar spoke with Basil Farraj about the recent death of Khader Adnan, a 45-year-old Palestinian prisoner who died on 2 May 2023 in an Israeli prison cell following a hunger strike that spanned nearly three months. He was protesting Israel’s widespread policy of arbitrarily detaining Palestinians without a fair trial.
- On 15 May, [Americans for Peace Now](#) published the article “Operation Shield and Arrow: Win, Win, Win, Win, Win?” Yossi Alpher, an independent security analyst discussed the recent Israeli military operation in Gaza and how its outcomes are perceived by the different actors to the conflict.
- On 11 May, Project48 and the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) organized a podcast commemorating 75 years of the Palestinian Nakba. Ten Palestinian cultural figures participated, reading their own work and that of other iconic Palestinians.

United Nations

On 15 May, the [UN Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP) for the first time in the history of the UN commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Nakba at UN Headquarters in New York, pursuant to the mandate by the General Assembly (A/RES/77/23 of 30 November 2022). In opening remarks, Ambassador Cheikh Niang (Senegal), Chair of the Committee, stressed that the resilience of the Palestinian people should not absolve the international community from its obligations and responsibility. Reminding the world about the Nakba and the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people is needed now more than ever, he said as he highlighted the current dire situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, voiced her deep concern over the continually diminishing prospects towards a two-State solution. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, urged the United Nations to restore the rights of Palestinian people and establish 15 May as an international day to commemorate their plight. UNRWA’s Commissioner-General shared a video message, representatives of Regional Groups read statements of support during the meeting. Nyle Fort, as CSO representative, voiced strong calls to UN Member States to take concrete action to end the occupation and what he considered the Apartheid situation inflicted on the Palestinians in the OPT. A [Special Commemorative Event](#) was also held in the General Assembly Hall on the same day. The event saw a video message by Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly and music by Palestinian, composer, Naseem Alatrash with the New York Arabic orchestra and Palestinian singer San aa Moussa the event brought to life the Palestinian journey through an immersive experience of the Nakba through live music, photos, videos, and personal testimonies.

- On 15 May, [OCHA](#) published a flash update on the humanitarian situation in Gaza. OCHA informed that a ceasefire in Israel and Gaza took effect on 13 May 2023, bringing to a halt the latest escalation of hostilities that began on 9 May 2023. In the Gaza Strip, the United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR) has verified 33 Palestinian fatalities from 9 to 14 May; one additional fatality is still under verification. Out of the verified fatalities, at least 12

were civilians: four girls, two boys, four women and two men. According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, 190 Palestinians were injured, including 64 children and 38 women. In Israel, one Israeli woman and one Palestinian worker from Gaza were killed and at least 40 physical injuries were reported by Israeli medical sources.

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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