

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

NGO Action News

25 May 2023

Middle East

- On 24 May, [ACRI](#) informed that the “NGO tax bill” will be soon brought to the Israeli Ministerial Committee for Legislation. The current version of the bill will tax donations from foreign entities (including foreign governments, the EU, UN bodies) to NGOs at a rate of 65%. ACRI stated that if passed this legislation will lead to the collapse of dozens and perhaps hundreds of NGOs and will seriously harm human rights of Israelis and Palestinians, especially minority populations.
- On 24 May, [Al-Shabaka](#) updated and expanded its Scenario Matrix to include the situation of the health sector in the West Bank and Gaza. According to Al-Shabaka, the Palestinian health sector faces a dismal future due to inconsistent funding, leadership issues, and the continuation of Israel’s military occupation. Al-Shabaka’s Scenario Matrix is a Palestinian-led scenarios assessment exercise that explains the implications of future political scenarios for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza from policy and sectoral perspectives.
- On 23 May, [B’Tselem](#) informed that the last residents of the Palestinian community of ‘Ein Samia, a community next to Ramallah that was home to about 200 residents, were forced to leave their land. B’Tselem stated that for years, residents of the community have suffered from violence carried out by Israeli forces, by settlers with the full backing of the State, and from extreme restrictions on building homes and infrastructure, as well as demolitions. The community’s school is set to be demolished soon, following a recent court approval. [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) also reported on this issue (in French).
- On 23 May, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) published an interview with Amahl Bishara, author of the book “Crossing a Line: Laws, Violence, and Roadblocks to Palestinian Political Expression.” According to the author, this book presents the different environments that shape political expression and action for Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians under military occupation in the West Bank.
- On 23 May, [Hurryyat](#) published the article “Isolation and Control - Israel’s denial of foreign nationals to the OPT.” According to the author, Israel implemented a series of new guidelines for foreigners applying for a visa for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). These requirements severely limit the possibility for foreign nationals to visit, work or study in the OPT. Through the complex and extensive visa procedures, the Israeli authorities targets specific groups, isolating the OPT by fragmenting families and obstructing foreigners from

entering, while simultaneously monitoring Palestinian society and increasing control over Palestinian land.

- On 18 May, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) issued a statement welcoming the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) unanimous adoption of a resolution during the 216th session of its Executive Board that has considered all Israeli measures seeking to change the historical character and legal status of Jerusalem's Old City and its walls, null and void. The resolution and its annexes call on Israel to cease its unilateral violations and unlawful action against places of worship in Jerusalem's Old City and walls.
- On 15 May, [Adalah](#) published a newsletter on the 75th anniversary of the Nakba. Adalah stated that Israel has enforced a policy of mass displacement of Palestinians- an ongoing Nakba- by seizing their lands and forcibly evicting them from their homes and villages. Israeli authorities have also long imposed restrictions on commemorating the Nakba, in particular with the enactment of the 2011 Nakba Law, clamping down on Palestinians' right to narrate and commemorate their history and ongoing Nakba.

Asia and Europe

- The [Australia Palestine Advocacy Network](#) (APAN) informed of the upcoming event in the Australian state of New South Wales on the launching of the book "The Palestine Laboratory-How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation around the World." The book is written by Antony Loewenstein, an independent journalist, author, filmmaker and co-founder of Declassified Australia. According to APAN, this book shows in depth how Israel has become a leader in developing spying technology and defense hardware fueling some of the globe's most brutal conflicts.
- On 20 May, the [Palestinian Return Center](#) (PRC) informed that for the first time, a symposium marking the 75th anniversary of the Nakba was hosted at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) Headquarters in Paris. PRC also informed that the symposium was organized by the Arab Group of UNESCO in cooperation with the permanent delegation of the State of Palestine to UNESCO and in conjunction with the meetings of organization's Executive Council, during which two resolutions in favor of Palestine were adopted.
- On 17 May, [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) (AFPS) published an article (in French) informing that 50 Palestinians, including 10 children, have lost their homes after Israeli authorities demolished their residential building in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan. The article reads that this building had been put under the threat of being demolished since 2018, AFPS also stated that more demolition of Palestinian-owned properties can be expected in East Jerusalem in the upcoming days.

North America

- On 25 May, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#), in cooperation with Heinrich Boell Foundation, will organize a webinar for the launch of issue 92 of the Jerusalem Quarterly, themed “Jerusalem's Interrupted Futures.” “Jerusalem's Interrupted Futures” addresses the threads of unfulfilled alternative futures that must be uncovered in order to understand the current reality in Jerusalem. The analysis proposed in this special issue entails seizing elements of history – plans, projects, programs – and saving them from oblivion so that new generations might base their understanding of their history on a more complete panorama of the past than that created by the victors.
- On 18 May, [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) (FOSNA) published the article “Gaza: Normalized Cruelty.” In this article, Jonathan Kuttab, the Executive Director of FOSNA, stated that the latest outburst of fighting in Gaza was strategically inconsequential for Israel, adding that the public opinion is only concerned about Gaza when there is actual fighting and deaths involved, but that as soon as a particular round of fighting subsides, it fades into oblivion. He added that the inhabitants of the Strip live in a state of continuous, unsettling trauma with no end in sight.

United Nations

- On 24 May, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, briefed the Security Council from Jerusalem on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question. Tor Wennesland stated that situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remains volatile, as yet another deadly escalation between Israel and Palestinian armed factions in Gaza took place this month. Thirty-three Palestinians, including at least 12 civilians – four women and six children – were killed during the hostilities. While the ceasefire is holding, conflict mitigation efforts must also be met with steps by both sides – supported by the international community – to reset a trajectory out of the cycle of violence. He called on all parties to stop unilateral and inflammatory actions that undermine prospects for peace, and to address the acute financial and institutional challenges facing the Palestinian Authority. The Special Coordinator also highlighted that seventeen Palestinians, including two children, were killed during the reporting period in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and 138 Palestinians, including two women and 23 children, were injured by Israeli security forces during demonstrations, clashes, search-and-arrest operations, attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis, and other incidents. Another 24 Palestinians, including two children, were injured by Israeli settlers or other civilians in shooting attacks, stone-throwing and other incidents.
- On 23 May, the [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East](#) (UNRWA) released its 2022 Annual Health Report. Main report findings include provision of 7.86 million health consultations to some 2 million Palestine Refugees across the Agency’s five fields of operation, namely Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, and Syria and a rise in the incidence of non-communicable diseases in 2022. Another area of Agency priority is mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). In 2022, screenings found that one out of five patients screened at UNRWA health centers required MHPSS follow up. Patients in Gaza had the highest detection rate at 26.4 per cent.

- On 20 May, [OCHA](#) published the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund Annual Report. The report summarizes OPT Fund operations and demonstrates how the Fund was utilized strategically to address humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Palestinians in 2022. The report also provides an update on the management and accountability of the Fund against key performance principles and a brief overview of results achieved throughout the projects funded

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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