

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

NGO Action News

29 June 2023

Middle East

- On 26 June, [Peace Now](#) published an article and infographic informing that in the first six months of 2023, the Israeli Higher Planning Council has approved more than 13,000 settlement housing units in the West Bank, the highest number on record since 2012 when Peace Now began to systematically record the advancement of settlement plans via the planning procedures.
- On 26 June, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, [Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights](#) issued a press release calling for the protection of victims of torture and ill-treatment in the occupied Palestinian territory. Al Mezan deplored the suffering of the Palestinian people due to Israeli practices amounting to torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment.
- On 25 June, [B'Tselem](#) published an article detailing an incident in which Ghazi Shihab, a 66-year-old laborer, was killed by Israeli forces on his way to work. The incident took place near the Nur Shams Refugee Camp.
- On 25 June, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) issued a press release calling on authorities in Gaza to stop using the death penalty and respect Palestine's obligations under the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which aims at the abolition of the death penalty. The press release notes that six death sentences have been issued in Gaza since the beginning of the year.
- On 22 June, [Al-Haq](#) published an article in which the Palestinian NGOs Network and the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council expressed alarm over the imminent forcible transfer of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family from their home in the Old City of Jerusalem, scheduled to occur sometime between 28 June and 13 July 2023. They called on the international community, including the UN and ICC, to intervene urgently to stop the seizure of this home. On 27 June, [Ir Amim](#) also published a letter on behalf of local Israeli and Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations condemning the imminent forced eviction of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family.
- On 14 June, [Al Shabaka](#) published a policy brief titled "Liberal Zionism: A Pillar of Israel's Settler Colonial Project" which argues that liberal Zionism provides the settler colonial project with "the veneer of enlightened, Western civilization and democratic, progressive

politics.” The policy brief proposes a framework for confronting the notion of liberal Zionism.

- On 13 June, [7amleh- The Arab Centre for the Advancement of Social Media](#) published a guide for individuals, institutions, and companies in Palestine to help them protect their privacy and digital data, based on Palestinian laws and international human rights law.

Asia and Europe

- On 27 June, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine](#) (ECCP) published an article noting that members of the European Parliament on the international trade committee decided to invite the European Commission to discuss views over EU trade with illegal settlements. The decision follows a petition signed by more than 277,000 EU citizens which calls on the Commission to propose a law to prevent EU businesses from import/export with illegal settlements in occupied territories.
- On 26 June, the [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) published an article (in French) detailing recent events in occupied Palestine and called on the French government to stop engaging in partnerships with Israel and instead take action to protect the Palestinian people.
- On 26 June, [Law for Palestine](#) organized a side event titled “Israel’s Arrest Policy against Palestinian University Students: A Tool for Eroding Palestinian Identity and Consolidating Colonialism?” on the margins of the Human Rights Council session in Geneva. Speakers included—among others—Elina Steinerte, former Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and member of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture, and Ihsah Adel, Chair of Law for Palestine and author of a report on the topic.
- The [Association Belgo-Palestinienne](#) announced (in French) an exhibit taking place from 23 June to 26 August titled “Palestine, the choice of Life/ Angels in times of war”, at the Maison Losseau in Mons (Belgium). The exhibit features paintings and sculptures by Iyad Sabbah, an artist from Gaza and photographs by Véronique Vercheval, a Belgian photojournalist.

North America

- On 27 June, [Human Rights Watch](#) published an article criticizing the UN for omitting Israel from its list of parties to armed conflict who commit grave violations against children in the most recent [report](#) of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. The article notes that this omission sends a mixed message about the UN’s willingness to hold powerful governments accountable, particularly as Israeli forces were responsible for 975 child casualties in 2022.
- On 26 June, [J Street](#) issued a statement welcoming President Biden’s administration’s decision to restore a longstanding restriction on American funding for US-Israel scientific cooperation projects, preventing US funds from supporting research conducted in Israeli

settlements in the West Bank. This reverses a decision made by the Trump administration to allow US funding to go to research projects in the settlements.

- On 23 June, [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) (JVFP) issued a press release calling on the U.S. government to deny Israel entry to the visa waiver program due to its discriminatory practices against Palestinian-Americans. JVFP also demands that President Biden's administration immediately call on Israel to cease its "collective punishment of Palestinian civilians." On 22 June, [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) delivered a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, detailing how including Israel in the visa waiver program while they discriminate against Palestinian Americans through a permit system, would "blatantly codify apartheid."
- On 23 June, [The Jerusalem Fund](#) published an article on recent settler violence in the West Bank, focusing on the attack on Turmusaya by armed Israeli settlers. The article argues that such actions stem from the Israeli government's increasingly bold annexation policies, which are deemed illegal by the international community.
- On 21 June, the [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) published a paper by Nathan Brown titled "Is Civic Space Shrinking Over Israel and Palestine?" The paper lays out the goals of a project Carnegie's Middle East Program is launching to consider if and how civic space is shrinking as well as how policymakers can help ensure that civic spaces are free and open so that people with a range of interests can be heard.

United Nations

- On 28 June, the [Spokesperson for the Secretary-General](#) issued a statement in which he expressed the Secretary-General's condemnation of Monday's advancement of plans for over 5,500 housing units in Israeli settlements in Area C of the occupied West Bank. He reiterated that settlements are a flagrant violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions and urged the Government of Israel to reverse the expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- On 27 June, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process](#) briefed the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. He focused his remarks on the Secretary General's 26th report on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016). The following [press release](#) was issued after the meeting, in which the President of the Arab American Institute, James Zogby, also briefed the Council and highlighted the consequences of the continue violations of Palestinian rights
- On 23 June, [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) Volker Türk issued a press release in which he called for an immediate end to the violence in the occupied West Bank, warning that it risked spiraling out of control amid harsh political rhetoric and an escalation in the use of advanced military weaponry by Israel.

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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