

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

NGO Action News

1 June 2023

Middle East

- On 30 May, [Peace Now](#) published an article informing of the resumption of construction works in the previously evacuated Israeli outpost of Homesh, near the Palestinian village of Burqa (East of Ramallah). Peace Now added that the residents of Burqa suffer from frequent cases of violence by settlers, and the re-establishment of this outpost will prevent them from returning to their lands. In addition, the authorization of this illegal outpost constitutes a severe blow to the possibility of establishing a future Palestinian state since its location is deep in the northern part of the West Bank.
- On 27 May, [Adalah](#) informed it had sent a letter on behalf of 11 displaced residents of the uprooted and destroyed Palestinian village of Tantura and the Tantura Committee, demanding immediate action from Israeli authorities to mark, fence, and install signage at the sites of mass graves and cemeteries of Tantura, whose villagers were massacred and displaced in 1948. The letter, sent by Adalah, is based on the location of four mass graves and the village's cemeteries determined through comprehensive research conducted by Forensic Architecture, a research agency based at Goldsmiths, University of London.
- On 25 May, [7amleh](#) concluded the seventh session of the Palestine Digital Activity Forum, with over 1,500 attendees. The forum was held under the theme of "Ending Digital Discrimination against Palestinians" to shed light on the issue of digital discrimination and its impact on Palestinian digital rights, within a local, regional, and international context. The forum provided space for constructive discussions aimed at generating policy and practical proposals to end digital discrimination against Palestinians and other minorities around the world. It included over 50 activities, including policy sessions, inspiring discussions, workshops, and both in-person and virtual events, focusing on various issues related to the forum's overall subject.
- On 24 May, Kairos Palestine and [BADIL](#) Resource Center hosted a webinar to launch their new joint publication entitled "[Palestinian Christians: The Forcible Displacement and Dispossession Continues.](#)" The report maps out how Israeli policies are part of an overarching strategy to create a coercive environment and facilitate the ongoing forcible displacement of Palestinians and the denial of the Palestinian self-determination. The joint report provides a particular focus on both how these policies and practices impact the Palestinian Christian community as well as on the role and responsibility of the international Christian community.

- On 24 May, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) released the first issue of the Journal of Palestine Studies for 2023. The issue features several articles, essays, interviews and reviews of recent books related to Palestine.

Asia and Europe

- On 25 May, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) (NRC) published an article informing that two schools in the Bedouin communities of Ein Samiya, north-east Ramallah, and Khashm al-Karm, south-east Hebron, are at risk of imminent demolition by Israeli authorities. In Ein Samiya, continuous settler attacks and the anticipated demolition of the school has forced the entire community of 172 people, including 78 children, to flee their homes. NRC urged Israel not to destroy schools and cancel all demolition orders in the occupied West Bank immediately. NRC also informed that the West Bank Protection Consortium, led by NRC, provides material and legal assistance to the Ein Samiya and Khashm al-Karm communities, including building the two schools.
- On 24 May, [Agence Média Palestine](#) published (in French) an interview from [Mondoweiss](#) with Omar Shakir, Israel and Palestine Director at Human Rights Watch. Omar Shakir talked about the difficulties to document the situation in the OPT after his deportation from Israel and recent reports on apartheid published by prominent human rights organizations.

North America

- On 6 June, the [Institute for Palestine Studies-USA](#) will organize an in-person reading in New York of the book “11 Lives: Stories from Palestinian Exile” with renowned Palestinian authors and actors in New York City. The 11 lives given voice in this book are each an expression of the myriad displacements that war and occupation have forced upon Palestinians since the Nakba of 1948.
- On 5 June, [Americans for Peace Now](#) will organize a webinar conversation with Hagit Ofran, from Settlement Watch in Peace Now. This date will mark the 56th anniversary of the 1967 war that gave birth to Israel’s occupation of the West Bank. Ofran will examine the cumulative impact of the settlements, the chief physical obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace. She will discuss the settlements' impact on the current situation on the ground and scrutinize the policies and practices of the current government.
- On 30 May, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) informed that Insaniyyat is soliciting reflections from researchers who have had projects interrupted, prevented, or made inconceivable due to Israel's restrictions on Palestinian movement. Closure and visa policies have wide implications for where and what is studied in the Anthropology of Palestine, who can conduct that research, and what is researchable. Insaniyyat are interested in contributions that demonstrate the material effects on scholars' research agendas and on the very possibility of undertaking research in Palestine.

- On 25 May, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast “Israel’s new anti-NGO legislation: An Effort to Eradicate Opponents of Illiberalism.” According to FMEP, the legislation would in effect remove the tax-exempt status of these groups and replace it with an onerous, and quite openly punitive, vindictive tax rate of 65% applied to the groups’ income and/or endowments. In this podcast, FMEP President Lara Friedman spoke with Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967; and Jessica Montell, Executive Director of the Israeli human rights organization HaMoked and formerly executive director of the Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem.

United Nations

- On 2 June, [UNRWA](#) will hold a pledging conference at UNHQ as the Agency will next year mark 75 years of its establishment following the 1948 displacement of Palestine Refugees. The conference aims to increase support from Member States to UNRWA, including finding ways and tools to overcome the Agency’s chronic financial crisis. The conference represents an opportunity to advocate, at the highest level, with Member States and is a platform to focus attention on the Agency’s contribution to the human development and protection of Palestine Refugees.
- On 25 May, [OCHA](#) published an article and a statement by Yvonne Helle, Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The statement reads that on 22 May, the Palestinian herding community of Ein Samiya (Ramallah) began dismantling and leaving their homes, citing settler violence as their main reason. Ein Samiya was home to 178 people, including 78 children. According to OCHA, repeated demolitions, settlement expansion, loss of access to grazing land, and settler violence continue to cause concern about the coercive environment, which together with loss of homes and access to lands, generate more humanitarian need in the OPT.

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 (CEIRPP). 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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