

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

NGO Action News

17 August 2023

Middle East

- On 16 August, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) issued a press release condemning the Israeli Forces' escalation in the West Bank, including the killing of two Palestinians during an incursion into Aqbat Jaber refugee camp (south of Jericho) and the injury to three others during an incursion into Nablus.
- On 16 August, [Al Mezan Center for Human Rights](#) issued a press release highlighting continued human rights violations against Palestinian fishermen by Israeli naval forces off the Gaza coast. Al Mezan noted that most recently, four Palestinian fishermen were arbitrarily arrested over the last two days in two separate incidents.
- On 16 August, [Gisha](#) published an update on Gaza's electricity crisis, noting that although Qatar had financed the cost of operating the fourth turbine at Gaza's power plant until 5 September 2023, the basic electricity needs of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are still far from being met.
- On 15 August, [Al-Shabaka](#) held a virtual discussion titled "Organized Resistance: Labor Strikes in the Palestinian Liberation Struggle," which focused on how labor strikes have mobilized Palestinians across the political spectrum and unified them in their struggle for liberation. Speakers included Sumaya Awad, a Palestinian writer and organizer, and Jamal Juma, coordinator and member of several Palestinian grassroots organizations.
- On 14 August, [B'Tselem](#) published a video and article detailing an incident in Um Safa, Ramallah District on 24 June 2023 in which Israeli settlers, aided by soldiers, attacked local residents and set fire to homes with occupants still inside. Aside from a video, the article included testimonies from Um Safa residents collected by a B'Tselem field researcher.

Asia and Europe

- On 17 August, the [Australia Palestine Advocacy Network](#) is hosting a panel discussion in Brisbane titled "Palestine: reality, recognition and rights," in which parliamentarians, union leaders, and others will discuss why the fight for Australian recognition of Palestine is vital for a balanced Australian foreign policy.
- On 16 August, [Amnesty International](#) issued a press release calling on Israeli authorities to release Walid Daqqah, a terminally ill Palestinian prisoner, so he can access specialist medical care and spend his remaining time with his family. The press release noted that

denying prisoners access to adequate medical care violates international standards on the treatment of detainees and may constitute torture.

- On 14 August, the [Association Belgo-Palestinienne](#) published an article (in French) describing intensified attacks on Christians in Israel and the OPT. The article also highlighted an upsurge in damage and vandalism to Christian religious symbols and places of worship.
- On 13 August, [Law for Palestine](#) held a panel discussion titled “Palestine and Israel: How can justice prevail?” Panelists included Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the OPT, and Kenneth Roth, former Executive Director of Human Rights Watch.
- On 10 August, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) published an article noting that nearly 500 Palestinians from seven communities have been forcibly displaced over the past 20 months due to Israeli settler violence and the illegal takeover of Palestinian lands. Furthermore, it noted that 12 families in the Ras At-Tin Bedouin community, northeast of Ramallah fled their homes in the last week.
- On 9 August, [Agence Media Palestine](#) publicized (in French) an ongoing exhibition at the [Institut du Monde Arabe](#) in Paris titled “What Palestine Brings to the World.” The exhibition, which runs until 19 November 2023, showcases modern/contemporary Palestinian artists and photographers, as well as French writer Jean Genet’s Palestinian archives.

North America

- On 20 August, as announced by the Canada Palestine Association, a gallery in Vancouver will host a [book signing event](#) with photographer Rehab Nazzal who has recently published a book titled “Driving in Palestine.”
- On 16 August, [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) Executive Director Jonathan Kuttab participated in an interfaith discussion titled “Human Rights and the Crime of Apartheid in Israel/Palestine” which took place during the 2023 Parliament of World Religions in Chicago.
- On 14 August, [Americans for Peace Now](#) held a webinar titled “Mixed Cities in Israel” with Shahira Shalabi, a former Deputy Mayor of Haifa who now runs a Shared Cities Initiative. The webinar focused on the potential for shared Jewish-Arab communities to advance political partnerships and improve relations between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel.

United Nations

- On 30 August, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) will hold its 413th Committee meeting. At this meeting, the Committee will adopt its

Annual Report for 2023, Prof. S. Michael Lynk, (former Special Rapporteur) will brief on the findings of the study commissioned by the Committee on the Legality of the Israeli Occupation, and the Committee will consider the accreditation of NGOs.

- On 16 August, [UNRWA](#) announced that the Government of the People’s Republic of China had provided US\$1 million in support of education for Palestine refugee children in Gaza. On 8 August, it also [announced](#) that it had signed a new multi-year agreement with the Government of Austria which will provide EUR 9 million over three years to support the UNRWA Health Programme in the OPT.
- On 10 August, [OCHA](#) published an article reporting that amid increased settler violence, the remaining families of Ras al Tin, a herding community in Area C of the central West Bank, dismantled their homes and properties, and left for safer places. Ras al Tin is one of multiple communities across the West Bank, particularly in Area C, where the humanitarian community has warned of a coercive environment that may result in forcible transfer.

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. Translations of the NGO Action News in other languages will be available soon.



<http://www.facebook.com/UN.palestinianrights>



<http://www.twitter.com/UNISPAL>