

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

NGO Action News

24 August 2023

Middle East

- On 22 August, [Al Mezan Center for Human Rights](#) reported that it had submitted a joint report with Adalah and Medical Aid for Palestinians to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD), for its first periodic review of Israel which began on 23 August. On 15 August, [Al-Haq](#), [Addameer](#) and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights also submitted a joint report to the CPRD detailing how Israeli authorities' human rights violations in the OPT affect Palestinians with disabilities.
- On 21 August, [B'Tselem](#) shared a series of testimonies from residents of the Gaza Strip whose homes were damaged in Israeli strikes over the past year.
- On 20 August, [Physicians for Human Rights](#) published an article to mark World Humanitarian Day, demanding accountability for violations of international humanitarian law in Jenin, including the lack of protection for medical personnel and damage caused to hospitals by the Israeli military during its military assault in July 2023.
- On 17 August, [Peace Now](#) published an article describing the Israeli Government's plan to invest around US\$190 million from the 2023-2024 budget in settlements in the West Bank.
- Over 285 organizations from around the world have signed a statement by the [Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Movement](#) calling on the UN General Assembly to reactivate the Special Committee Against Apartheid.

Asia and Europe

- The Australia Palestine Advocacy Network announced an [event](#) on 24 August in Sydney, in which Antony Loewenstein will present his book "The Palestine Laboratory." The book discusses how Israel's massive arms and security industry has been tried and tested on Palestinians for decades and now exported internationally.
- On 23 August, [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) published an article (in French) describing attacks by the Israeli army against groups of protesters in the Gaza Strip on 21 August who were marching to commemorate the 54th anniversary of the burning of Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- On 23 August, [Agence Media Palestine](#) published an article (in French) providing an update on more than 1,000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons who began a collective and indefinite hunger strike on 17 August to protest their conditions.

North America

- As of 23 August, more than 2,120 academics and artists from around the world have signed an open letter titled “[The Elephant in the Room](#)” urging the Jewish community in North America to break their silence on what they see as the direct link between Israel’s recent attack on the judiciary and its illegal occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).
- On 21 August, [Friends of Sabeel North America](#)’s Executive Director, Jonathan Kuttub, was named the 2023 Legacy Peacemaker by the Mennonite Church in the USA.

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 21 August, [Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, provided a briefing to the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East.
- On 21 August, [UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#), Lynn Hastings, issued a statement noting that over 1.3 million Palestinian children will return to school in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip over the next couple of weeks. She stressed that safe access to education is a fundamental right of all children which must always be protected and safeguarded by all parties. On 19 August, she issued a separate [statement](#) to mark World Humanitarian Day.
- On 18 August, [UNRWA](#) announced that it had decided to suspend all services in the Ein El Hilweh camp in Lebanon due to the continued presence of armed fighters in its facilities, including schools in the camp.

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.



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