

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

**NGO Action News**

**3 August 2023**

**Middle East**

- On 2 August, [Peace Now – Settlement Watch](#) provided the update “Jerusalem District Planning Committee to discuss Major Construction Projects in East Jerusalem”. It informed that the Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Committee will convene the week after to deliberate on significant development proposals beyond the Green Line in Jerusalem, including plans for the promotion of 100 housing units and two hotels in the Jabel Mukaber neighbourhood.
- On 29 July, [Al-Haq](#) informed it submitted its position on key arguments to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for the “Advisory Opinion of the Legal Consequences Arising from Israel’s Occupation”. The submission mentions the right to self-determination, the inherent illegality of the Occupation, Israel’s ongoing unlawful use of force, Israel’s discriminatory legislations and measures. Al-Haq invited all States and international organizations to consult its statement and publications and consider its arguments while engaging in the proceedings, including in their responses to any of the written submissions and/or during the oral proceedings.
- On 27 July, [Yesh Din](#) published the legal position paper “The Legal Status of the Israeli Occupation: Legal Opinion”. The opinion examines the question of how the practices and policies employed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) have, as a whole, impacted the legal status of Israeli occupation. It analyses Israel’s policy in the OPT, reaching the conclusion that Israel aspires to make its control of the West Bank permanent. The analysis further indicates that Israel has abused the legal framework that allows it to hold the territory and administrate it, in order to effect a process of de facto and de jure annexation of the OPT.
- On 24 July, [Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights](#) denounced the human rights violations by Israel against Palestinian fishermen sailing off the Gaza coast. Al Mezan said it documents Israel’s harassment of Gaza fishermen in Palestinian territorial waters on a regular basis, including recurrent attacks, arbitrary arrests, seizure of fishing boats and equipment, and the use of live ammunition against them.
- On 18 July, [Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre](#) informed it will organize a training for the diplomatic community on international humanitarian law (IHL). The aim of the training is to equip participants with a foundational understanding of the international legal framework in armed conflicts, and is tailored to the needs of members of the diplomatic community working in the context of Israel and OPT.

- On 17 July, [Gisha](#) published the report “Gaza Close Up”, which tackles topics ranging the high unemployment in the Strip, severe shortages of electricity and clean water to Israel’s denial of movement. Gisha’s position is that Israel must allow free movement of people and goods to and from Gaza, subject only to reasonable, proportionate individual security screening, and enable Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip not only to exercise their fundamental rights but also to have access to all that is required for life with dignity.

### **Asia and Europe**

- On 25 July, the [Association Belgo-Palestinienne](#) announced the publication (in French) of May Maalouf’s book “Jerusalem, ideas made about a border city”. The author analyzes the US former President’s decision to transfer the US embassy from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem and the long lobbying process of the US Congress, evangelists and AIPAC.
- On 22 July, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) informed that the Portuguese parliament recently passed a resolution recognizing the 1948 Palestinian Nakba, condemning Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and its continued violation of international law, and calling on the Portuguese government to take a clear position defending the rights of the Palestinian people.

### **North America**

- On 2 August, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace \(FMEP\)](#) held the webinar “Blockade, Bombings, and Continuing Trauma: Assessing Mental Health in Gaza”, featuring representatives from the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, Physicians for Human Rights Israel, among others. The experts discussed the 15 year-blockade of the Gaza Strip and devastating Israeli bombing campaigns and their impact on the life for the two million Palestinians who live in the Strip.
- On 15 July, [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) announced it will hold its national campaign this fall, “Seize the Moment: 2023 US CPR National Conference”, featuring speakers like Rep. Rashida Tlaib, Marc Lamont Hill, and Diala Shamas. Hundreds of activists, community organizers, students, academics and artists will meet to mobilize together.

### **United Nations**

- On 30 August, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) will hold its 413<sup>th</sup> 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 27 July, [UNRWA](#) Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini visited UNRWA staff and the Palestine refugees community in Jenin refugee camp to take stock of the impact of the violent incursion in early July. During his visit, the Commissioner-General was shocked to witness the level of destruction to the camp’s infrastructure, but mostly to the level of anxiety and fear experienced by the people, particularly the children.

*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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