

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

NGO Action News

28 September 2023

Middle East

- On 27 September, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights released its [weekly update](#) (21-26 September 2023) on Israeli violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- On 27 September, [Al Mezan](#) welcomed the publication of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol in the Palestinian Official Gazette on 25 September 2023, effectively becoming part of Palestinian law. With this step, the State of Palestine fulfilled the international obligations arising from its accession to the Convention Against Torture on 2 April 2014 and its Optional Protocol on 29 December 2017.
- On 27 September, [BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights](#) issued a press release calling on the UNHRC to end Israel's colonial-apartheid regime and informed of its oral statement at the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Council.
- On 27 September, [Scientists for Palestine](#) held a Bisan Lecture Series with Prof. Timothy Brennan (University of Minnesota), about "Criticism and Corporate Myth: Edward Said and the Media". The next virtual Bisan lecture will take place on 11 October with Prof. Rashid Khalidi (Columbia University) on "The latest phase of the Hundred Years' war on Palestine".
- On 26 September, [Defence Children International- Palestine](#) (DCIP) was awarded the prestigious [Rafto Prize 2023](#) for their persistent work to defend and promote the rights of children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. For over 30 years, DCIP has investigated, documented and pursued accountability for grave human rights violations against children; held Israeli and Palestinian authorities accountable to universal human rights principles; and advocated at the international and national levels to advance access to justice and protection for children.
- On 21 September, [Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel](#), on behalf of nine civil society organizations, filed a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court challenging the "Admission Committees Law", following its recent amendment, approved by the Knesset in July 2023 (Amendment No. 12). The petition argues that a recent amendment to the law, aimed at 'strengthening Jewish settlement,' underscores its discriminatory purpose towards Palestinian citizens and will harm marginalized communities.

- On 20 September, following the meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and United States President Biden (20.09.23), and before Netanyahu's speech at the UN, [Peace Now](#) sent letters to President Biden, and the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, urging them not to believe Netanyahu's expected statements about Israel's commitment to peace or the two-State solution and claiming that his government is effectively annexing the occupied Palestinian territory.

Asia and Europe

- On 28 September, the will hold an online webinar "Australia's complicity with Israeli Apartheid". The event will hear from: Omar Barghouti, Palestinian human rights defender and co-founder of the BDS movement Antony Loewenstein – Australian independent journalist, filmmaker and author of "The Palestine Laboratory Moderated by Dr Alana Lentin. Co-hosted by Jews Against the Occupation and the Tzedek Collective.
- On 24 September, [Law for Palestine](#) issued its weekly publication "Palestine's legal scene" (17-23 September 2023).
- On 24 September, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) informed that it issued an oral brief to the UN Human Rights Council on the "shocking unemployment rate in Gaza was standing at 47%, one of the highest in the world, with the unemployment rate among youth in Gaza holding intermediate diplomas or university degrees reaching over 74 per cent.
- On 22 September, the [Association Belgo-Palestinienne](#) issued an article (in French) stating that in the past two weeks, 14 Palestinians had been killed by the Israeli army. Seven during crackdown on protests in Gaza, five others in raids in Jenin governorate and the other two were killed around the cities of Hebron/Al-Khalil and Jericho.

North America

- On 28 September, [Columbia Center for Palestinian Studies](#) will present the "Edward W. Said memorial lecture: Recognizing the Stranger". Author Isabella Hammad will deliver a talk on narrative form and its relationship to discourse around Palestine and Palestinian history through the lens of Anagnorisis, or Recognition, a narrative turning point based on a moment of sudden awakening or understanding. This year's Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture commemorates the 20th anniversary of Said's death.
- On 27-29 October, the [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) will host "Seize the Moment" at its annual conference in Houston, Texas. The conference will feature, among others, American author and activist Marc Lamont Hill, US House Representative Rachida Tlaib and Diala Shamas, Attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights.

- On 10 November, [The Jerusalem Fund](#) will host its 2023 Annual Conference titled, “One Palestine: The Struggle Against Apartheid,” in honor of the resplendent unity displayed by the Palestinian people in the face of colonial fragmentation. The conference will reflect on the past 75 years since the Nakba and 30 years since the Oslo Accords and consider the current state of the struggle against Israeli colonialism within the context of recent developments. The discussions will include renowned experts, academics, and journalists who will provide contributions from a variety of disciplines and perspectives, including legal, political, and humanitarian analysis.
- [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) has issued its weekly bulletin. The Biden administration notified Israel two weeks ago that it was reimposing a ban that prohibits U.S. taxpayer funding from being used in any research and development or scientific cooperation projects conducted in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

United Nations

- On 27 September, Tor Wennesland, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process delivered a [briefing to the Security Council](#) devoted to the 27th report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) covering the reporting period from 15 June to 19 September 2023. The Special Coordinator expressed deep concern about the unrelenting expansion of Israeli settlements and settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with over 10,000 housing units advanced in this reporting period alone. Settlements further entrench the occupation, fuel violence, impede Palestinian access to their land and resources, and systematically erode the viability of a Palestinian State as part of a two-State solution. He remains gravely concerned by the intensification of violence in the occupied West Bank and Israel – at levels not seen in decades – and the use of increasingly lethal weaponry, including in densely populated areas.
- On 21 September, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Sweden co-hosted, in the presence of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, a [High-Level Ministerial meeting in support of Palestine Refugees and UNRWA](#) on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly. Member States reaffirmed their strong political support to the Agency and explored ways to break the deadlock that threatens its ability to provide essential services to Palestine Refugees in the region. Moreover, Iceland’s Foreign Minister Ms. Pórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir and UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini signed a [multi-year framework agreement](#) for the years 2024-2028 in support of Palestine Refugees in UNRWA’s five fields of operation held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.
- The Study on the [“Legality of the Israeli occupation, of the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem”](#) commissioned by the Committee on the Exercise of

the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and prepared by the Irish Centre for Human Rights of the University of Galway, Ireland is now available on UNISPAL.

This newsletter informs about recent and upcoming activities of Civil Society Organizations working on the question of Palestine. 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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