

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

NGO Action News

12 October 2023

Middle East

- On 11 October, [Adalah – The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights](#) in Israel issued a statement calling on the international community to intervene immediately to protect the lives of civilians in Gaza, and calling on the Israeli and Gaza authorities to release all civilian hostages and cease violations of international humanitarian law.
- On 11 October, [Gisha – Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement](#) issued a press release noting the total electricity blackout in Gaza, and condemning the humanitarian disaster that Israel is imposing on Palestinians in the Strip.
- On 11 October, [Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#) published an article noting that since 7 October, lawyers working with Palestinian prisoner organizations are facing significant difficulties in monitoring detainees' conditions due to the activation of military orders used in emergency situations.
- On 10 October, the [Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies](#) issued a statement calling for immediate action from the international community to protect civilians in Gaza, Israel and the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- On 10 October, [B'Tselem](#) issued a press release condemning Israel's "criminal policy of revenge" in Gaza, which is harming civilians, their property, and civilian infrastructure, noting that "one crime does not justify another."
- On 9 October, [Physicians for Human Rights- Israel](#) published an article titled "Pain leads to more Pain" condemning attacks on medical facilities and stressing that harming civilians is against international law and fundamental moral values.
- On 8 October, [Al-Haq](#), [Al Mezan Center for Human Rights](#), and the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) issued an open letter to the UN Security Council calling on member states to address the root causes of the Palestinian struggle and protect the Palestinian people from retaliatory Israeli attacks.
- On 8 October, [7amleh – The Arab Centre for the Advancement of Social media](#) published an article (in Arabic) documenting hundreds of cases of digital rights violations on social media, which included cases of hate speech and incitement in Hebrew, the deletion of Palestinian content, and the restriction of accounts of Palestinian rights activists.

Asia and Europe

- On 11 October, [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) issued a press release calling for the lifting of the blockade on Gaza and denouncing the ban on demonstrations of solidarity with the Palestinian people after a planned rally in Paris was banned.
- On 11 October, [Agence Media Palestine](#) published an article (in French) noting that since the attack by Hamas fighters on 7 October, cases of disinformation and fake news have multiplied. Well-known media outlets as well as social media networks are sharing unsourced, unconfirmed, and erroneous information.
- On 10 October, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) delivered a statement at the UN Human Rights Council under agenda item 7 about Israel's mistreatment of Palestinian detainees. It noted that in recent weeks, Israel's National Security Minister has intensified his cruel treatment of Palestinian prisoners, proposing to introduce further inhumane policies such as to legislate the death sentence exclusively against Palestinians.
- On 10 October, the [Australia Palestine Advocacy Network](#) published a press release calling on the Australian government to condemn Israel's ordering of a complete siege on Gaza, arguing that the halt to the supply of electricity, food, water and fuel is a "brutal collective punishment."
- On 9 October, amid the unfolding hostilities and mounting evidence that violations of international humanitarian law are being perpetrated, the [Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre](#) began producing a series of documents highlighting relevant rules of international law and providing legal analysis of current events.
- On 7 October, [Amnesty International](#) published an article expressing alarm over the growing civilian death toll and calling on Israeli security forces and Palestinian armed groups to make every effort to protect the lives of civilians, amid an unprecedented escalation in hostilities between Israel and Gaza. On the same day, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) issued a similar statement.

North America

- On 11 October, [Human Rights Watch](#) published an article expressing concern over the recent announcements by some European governments about freezing development assistance to Palestine.
- On 11 October, [Americans for Peace Now](#) held an online briefing with Yossi Alpher, former senior official with the Mossad and former IDF intelligence officer, to discuss recent developments in Israel/Palestine. A recording of the discussion is on the website.

- On 10 October, [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) launched an online tool to facilitate US citizens reaching out to their representatives in Congress and urge them to de-escalate tensions in Palestine/Israel and not exacerbate violence by sending more weapons to Israel.
- On 9 October, the [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) issued a press release calling on the US Congress to stop arming Israel and address the root causes of recent violence.
- On 9 October, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) issued a statement grieving the loss of life in Israel/Palestine, asking people of faith to remain committed to praying and working toward an immediate end to the violence, and urging an escalation of diplomatic efforts by the United States through the United Nations and other regional bodies.
- On 9 October, [J Street](#) issued a statement expressing horror and grief over the Hamas attack on Israel, while also expressing concern over the safety of Palestinian civilians now caught in the crossfire.

United Nations

- On 11 October, [UN Secretary-General](#) António Guterres briefed the press on the situation in Israel and Gaza, expressing the need to avoid spillover of the conflict. He appealed to all parties, and those with an influence over those parties, to avoid further escalation, and called for the immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas. The Secretary-General also gave a [press conference](#) on 9 October.
- On 11 October, [UNRWA](#) issued a press release urgently seeking US\$104 million for life-saving aid to Gaza amid escalating violence. The funds are needed to cover food, health, shelter, and protection needs of some 500,000 refugees, including up to 250,000 persons seeking safety in UNRWA shelters across the Gaza Strip. The same day, UNRWA also issued a [statement](#) confirming that 11 UNRWA staff and personnel have been killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October.
- On 10 October, [UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#), Lynn Hastings, issued a statement noting that the intensity of hostilities was limiting the ability of the UN and its humanitarian partners to deliver aid and meet the needs of the people in Gaza.
- On 10 October, [UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs](#), Martin Griffiths, issued a statement calling on all sides to uphold the laws of war and not block humanitarian relief and vital services to Gaza.
- On 10 October, the [UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel](#) issued a statement saying that it was collecting and preserving evidence of war crimes committed by all sides since 7 October 2023, expressing its intent to ensuring legal accountability, including individual criminal and command responsibility for violations of international law.

- On 7 October, [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process](#), Tor Wennesland, issued a statement condemning the assault by Hamas against Israeli towns and cities and expressing concern for the well-being of all civilians.

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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