



UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Newsletter on Recent Activities

No. 18 / October – December 2023

1. Committee Chair expresses deep concern over the alarming security situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

On 7 October, the following X [post](#) was issued by the Chair of the Committee, H.E. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal:

“

I am **extremely concerned** by the alarming security situation prevailing in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

I second the UN Secretary-General in **strongly condemning the deadly attacks** this morning by Palestinian militants, which have killed and injured many civilians in Israel. Attacks against civilians, including retaliations, are contrary to international law under any circumstance. I also join the Secretary-General's **call for restraint** from all parties to avoid further loss of life.

This proves again that only negotiations based on the **two-state solution** will ensure a **lasting peace** between Israelis and Palestinians.

7 October 2023

AMBASSADOR CHEIKH NIANG

Chair of the UN General Assembly Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

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2. Six Palestinian diplomats attend the “Art of Speechwriting” training

The Committee supported the participation of six staff from the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in an online training on the “[Art of Speechwriting](#)” organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and as part of the Committee’s capacity building programme. The training ran from 16 October to 5 November 2023 and versed on essential principles of speechwriting.

3. Palestinian Government officials participate in the annual capacity building programme at UNHQ, New York



From 30 October to 8 December, two officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ramallah participated in the six-week annual programme for civil servants of the State of Palestine. Organized by the Division for Palestinian Rights, the programme helps the trainees enhance their understanding of multilateral diplomacy, peace, security, and development issues, as well as other topics under discussion at the UN. The trainees attended formal and informal meetings and events at the UN Headquarters, including the 78th General Assembly session. More information can be found [here](#).

4. Bureau condemns killing and wounding of civilians in Gaza and calls for an immediate ceasefire

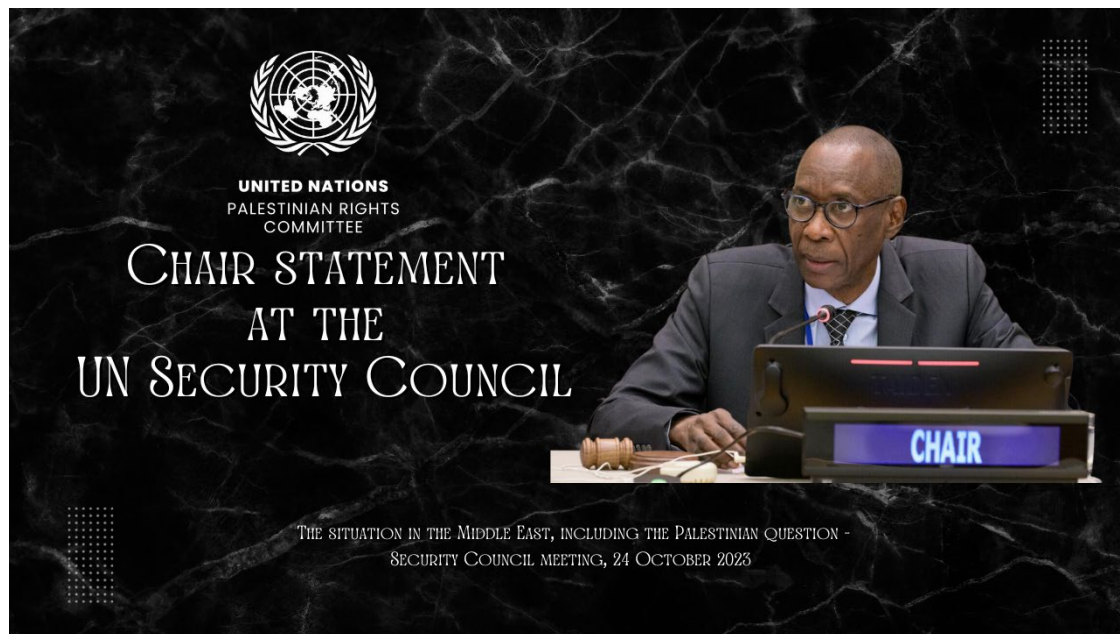


On 17 October, the Bureau of the Committee issued a [statement](#) strongly condemning the killing and wounding of civilians and the targeting of civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. It expressed “grave concern at the humanitarian disaster” being imposed by Israel, the occupying

Power, against the Palestinian civilian population and appealed for an immediate ceasefire, for a halt in the forced displacement of civilians, and to ensure safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian aid.

The full text of the statement in [عربي](#), Français, Español, Русский, 中文 and English is available [here](#).

5. The Committee Chair addresses the quarterly Security Council Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question



On 24 October, the Chair delivered the Committee's statement strongly condemning Israel's disproportionate reprisal air strikes and bombardment of the densely populated Gaza Strip. The Chair emphasized that the forced transfer of people is a grave breach of international law. To read the Chair's statement, please click [here](#). The verbatim records of the meeting are available [here](#). You can watch the Chair's statement [here](#) and view the recording of the UN Security Council meeting by clicking on these hyperlinks: [1st part](#) and [2nd part](#).

6. The Committee's Bureau meets with the International Commission of Inquiry on the OPT, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967



On 27 October, the Committee Bureau met with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel (CoI), Ms. Navanethem Pillay (Chair) and Mr. Chris Sidoti, as well UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, Ms. Francesca Albanese. The meeting explored collaboration on advocacy to reach a cessation of hostilities, achieve accountability for war crimes, and refocusing international attention on the root causes of the ongoing war on Gaza.

The Special Rapporteur's latest report to the General Assembly is available [here](#), and the report of the CoI is available [here](#).

7. The Committee Bureau renews calls for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip



On 1 November, the Committee Bureau issued a [statement](#) reiterating its appeal for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian ceasefire in the Gaza Strip leading to a cessation of hostilities, as called for in its previous [statement of 17 October](#) and by an overwhelming majority of Member States in the [General Assembly](#) on 27 October.

The full text of the statement in [عربي](#), Français, Español, Русский, 中文 and English is available [here](#).

8. Committee Bureau holds Annual Retreat in New York



On 10 November, the Bureau held its annual [Retreat](#) in New York. Members reflected on Committee activities implemented in 2023, and planned for the Committee's 2024 Programme of Work. Participants agreed to continue adjusting the programme as the situation in Gaza unfolds.

9. Committee Bureau welcomes the UN Security Council resolution 2712 (2023) and reiterates its calls for an immediate and durable ceasefire



On 16 November, the Bureau issued a [statement](#) welcoming the adoption of Security Council [resolution 2712](#) (2023) concerning the crisis facing the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. The

Bureau demanded that all parties comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, notably with regard to the protection of civilians.

The full text of the statement in عربي, Français, Español, Русский, 中文 and English is available [here](#).

10. Official Launch of the Arabic translation: Study of the Legality of the Israeli occupation



On 27 November, the Committee's study on the Legality of the Israeli Occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, prepared in cooperation with the University of Galway (Ireland) was published in Arabic. The full text of [the study in Arabic](#) is available on the Committee's UNISPAL website as a PDF file and a [flipbook which allows for easy online reading](#).

11. Committee presents its annual report to the UN General Assembly



On 28 November, at the [39th Plenary meeting](#) of the General Assembly (item 35), H.E. Ahmad Faisal Muhamad (Malaysia), Vice-Chair of the Committee, presented the Committee's annual report (document [A/78/35](#)), covering developments from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The report's recommendations call for Israel to reverse its creeping annexation of Palestinian territory, and to halt demolitions, settlement expansions and forced displacement of Palestinians. The report further calls on Israel to halt its punitive measures against the Palestinian Authority and to protect Palestinian civilians.

The annual report of the Committee is available [here](#).

12. UN Chronicle published article by Committee Chair: “An Urgent Call for Justice and Peace: Marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People Amid Escalating Violence in Gaza”

On 28 November, the [UN Chronicle](#) published an article by the Committee Chair on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November 2023. The Chair stressed that the current surge in violence in Israel and Gaza underscores the urgency of finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict,

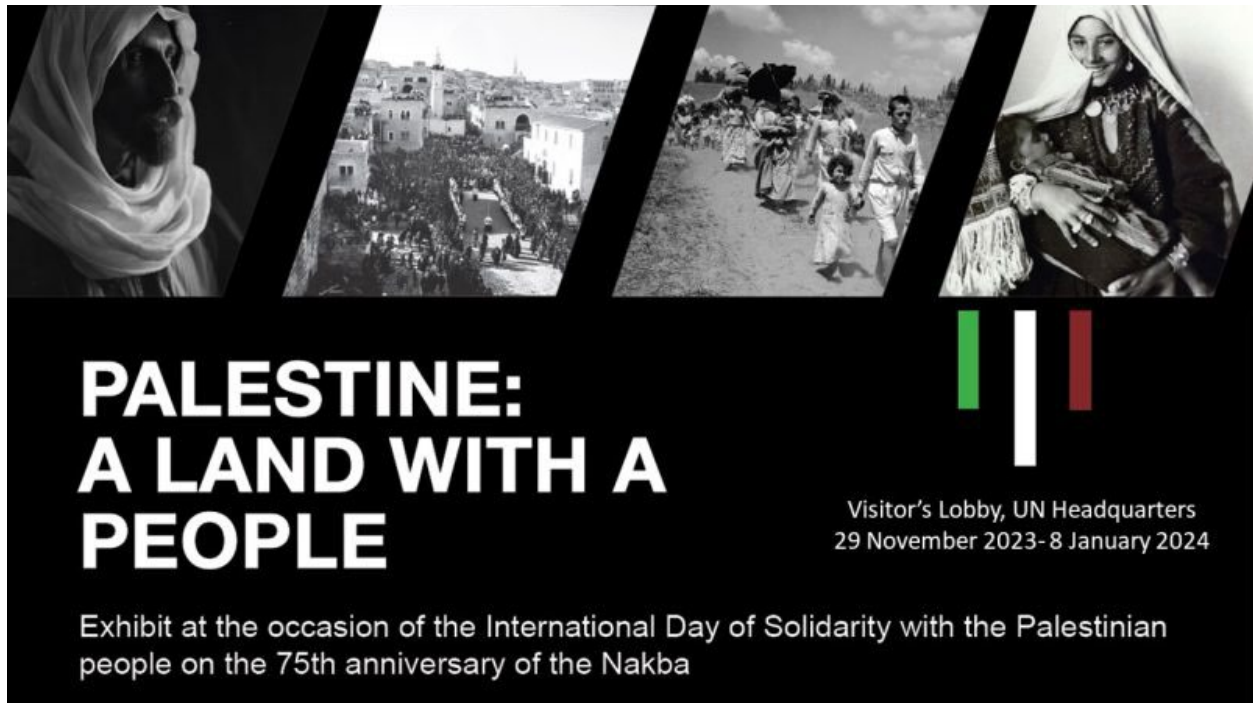
The article is available in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

13. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



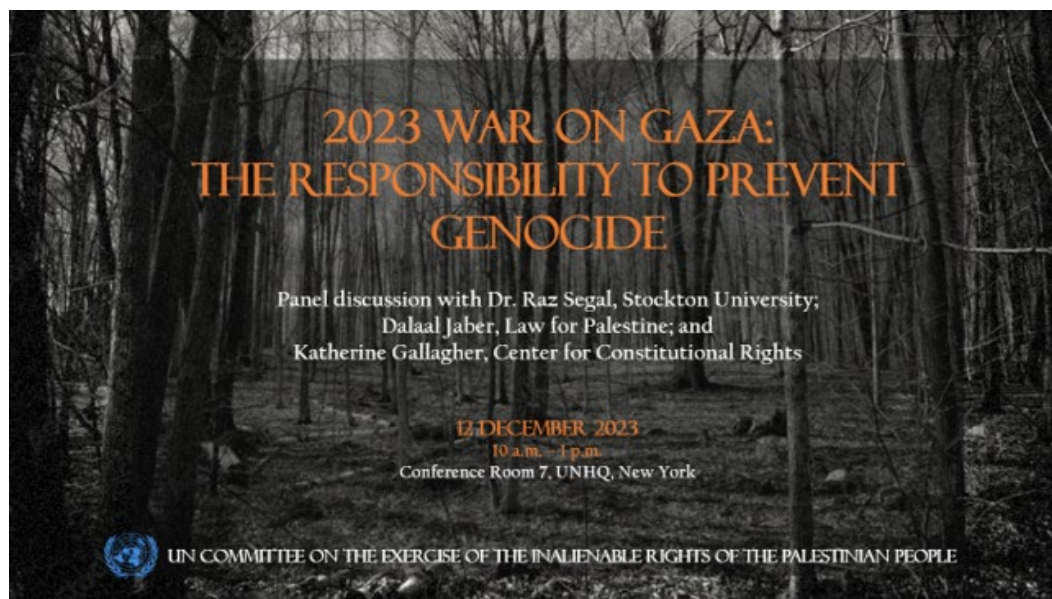
On 29 November, the Committee [commemorated](#) the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People with a Special Meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York where Ambassador Ahmad Faisal Muhamad, Vice-Chair of the Committee, said that after 76 years since the adoption by the General Assembly of Partition [resolution 181 \(II\)](#), Palestinians continue to endure systematic violations to their inalienable rights. The President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the Deputy Secretary-General, on behalf of the Secretary-General were keynote speakers at the event. The meeting was attended by 105 Member States and 5 CSOs; 47 messages of solidarity were submitted by Heads of State and Government. More information on the Special Meeting and similar events around the world can be found on the event's [website](#). The press release of the event is available [here](#).

14. Exhibit “Palestine – a land with a People”



An exhibit entitled "Palestine: A Land with a People," was [inaugurated](#) on 29 November 2023 and will remain on display at UNHQ in New York in the Visitors' Lobby until 8 January 2024. The exhibit commemorates the Palestinian Nakba (“catastrophe”), a deeply traumatic event, which took place from 1947 to 1949 when more than half of the Palestinian people were expelled from or fled their homes. The exhibit serves as a reminder that close to 6 million Palestinians remain refugees to this day. You can view the exhibit online [here](#).

15. Committee Event on “2023 War on Gaza: The Responsibility to Prevent Genocide”



On 12 December, the Committee convened a [panel discussion](#) entitled “2023 War on Gaza: The Responsibility to Prevent Genocide” which brought together prominent experts in genocide studies and international law, including Dr. Raz Segal, Ms. Katherine Gallagher, Ms. Hannah Bruinsma, and Mr. Jehad Abusalim. The discussion centered on identifying the elements of the crime of genocide, the obligations of States according to international law, and the formulation of effective strategies to prevent a potential genocide in Gaza.

More information and the video recording of the event can be found [here](#).

16. Publications

- Our [Monthly Bulletins](#) offer a collection of important actions and documents by the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations relevant to the question of Palestine. You can read the bulletins in UNISPAL, the world’s largest online repository of documents on the question of Palestine.
- The weekly NGO Action News on recent and upcoming activities of Civil Society Organizations working on the question of Palestine are available on the UNISPAL website in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). The Committee provides the information “as is” without warranty and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or reliability of the information contained in the websites linked in the newsletter.
- The Annual Compilation of resolutions, decisions, and voting records of the General Assembly and the Security Council relating to the question of Palestine in 2022 is available [here](#). The document covers actions in 2022 by the General Assembly’s seventy-seventh session, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Human Rights Council.
- The various reports prepared by the United Nations and its affiliated agencies on the question of Palestine are available in the Committee’s 2022 Annual Compilation of Reports and accessible [here](#).

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