

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

NGO Action News

13 April 2023

Middle East

- On 11 April, [Al Mezan](#) issued a press release informing that Israel revoked travel permits already issued to Palestinian Christians in the Gaza Strip to celebrate their religious rites in West Bank's holy sites during the Easter holidays. According to Al Mezan, about 1,000 Palestinian Christians from Gaza applied to the Israeli authorities for a travel permit to go to Jerusalem during the Easter holidays. Of these, 739 requests were approved. However, the Israeli authorities later announced that they had revoked all permits, thus preventing Palestinian Christians in Gaza from visiting holy sites, violating the freedom of movement and the freedom of worship of Palestinians from Gaza.
- On 8 April, [Al Haq](#) published an open letter to the UN Security Council calling for sanctions against Israel and to refer its acts of aggression against Palestinians to the International Criminal Court. Al Haq stated being gravely concerned at the escalation of hostilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, incited by Israel's military attack on civilian Palestinian worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque during the month of Ramadan. Al Haq urged the Security Council to take concrete steps to ensure the realisation of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, including refugees and exiles in the diaspora, and the right of return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland.
- On 3 April, [7amleh](#) announced the opening of registration for the seventh edition of the Palestine Digital Activism Forum. The Forum is considered the largest digital event on Palestinian digital rights; this year, the forum will be held in a composite format (online and offline) over three days, from 23 May to 25 May. The event will include cooperation with 45 partner institutions, hosting more than 90 speakers and trainers locally, regionally and internationally, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, and the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan. Major social media companies, including Meta, Zoom, Google and Wikimedia, will also participate.

Asia and Europe

- On 30 March, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) (PRC) in London held a panel discussion entitled "Land Day 47 Years On: A Day to Resist and Remember". Panelists provided information on the significance of Land Day celebrated on 30 March each year by Palestinians everywhere. The discussion highlighted the historical and political significance

of the Land Day demonstrations, which date back to 30 March, 1976, when six unarmed Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces during protests against Israel's expropriation of large tracts of Palestinian-owned land. The speakers stated that this year's event took place once more at a tense time, as Israeli settler-related violence targeting Palestinians reached its highest levels.

- In March, [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) (AFPS) published a series of articles and reports to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba. AFPS recalled that Palestinians are still living in an ongoing Nakba, with many still facing risks of dispossession. The Association's website provides links to several documents, declarations, events and also information on massacres committed by Israeli forces against Palestinians.

North America

- On 20 and 21 April, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) (CMEP) will organize the advocacy summit "Seeking Comprehensive Peace: Advocating for Human Rights in Israel and Palestine." Keynote speakers and panelists from Israel/Palestine and the United States will include Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, and Rev. Dr. Jack Sara. According to CMEP, participants will have the opportunity to use the stories shared during the event to advocate with their Congressional offices on behalf of human rights in Israel and Palestine.
- On 17 April, [Americans for Peace Now](#) (APN) will organize the webinar "Palestinian Politics and Public Opinion". According to APN, while Israel grapples with a severe political crisis, the Palestinian public arena is tumbling further into paralysis, frustration, and despair. The speaker, Dr. Khalil Shikaki, is a Professor of Political Science and director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah. He will analyze the current state of Palestinian politics and public opinion.
- On 13 April, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) will organize a discussion on the topic "Race and catastrophe: lessons from Palestine", with Sherene Seikaly (Associate Professor of History at the University of California) and Nadia Abu El-Haj (Barnard College and Columbia University and Co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies). Participants will discuss what Palestine can teach about the global history of race, capital, slavery, and dispossession, and the relationship between land and colonialism. This talk will reflect on Palestine's lessons in and with the movement for global racial justice.
- In March, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the "Congressional Briefing Series", an educational programme conducted annually by the Middle East Institute's Palestinian Affairs Program and FMEP to brief members of Congress and their staff on the most pressing issues facing Israel and Palestine. The 2023 series, recorded in February and March, features expert analysis, Palestinian and Israeli voices as well as others, on topics of extremism, human rights, and Palestinian internal politics, among others.

United Nations

- On 8 April, [UNISPAL](#) published the World Food Programme’s (WFP) report “State of Palestine Annual Country Report 2022.” WFP reported that Palestine continues to face a complex protection and humanitarian crisis due to prolonged occupation, internal political divisions, and recurrent conflict. In 2022, the situation was exacerbated by heightened conflict, economic stagnation, rising food and fuel prices impacted by the conflict in Ukraine, and the lingering effects of COVID-19. With the rise in food prices significantly reducing purchasing power, 1.8 million Palestinians are now food-insecure. In 2022, WFP assisted 51 percent of non-refugee food-insecure individuals in Palestine. Furthermore, restricted movement, trade and access to resources, especially in the Gaza Strip, compounded by water scarcity, high temperatures, desertification, and land and soil contamination, continue to prevent sustainable development and recovery.
- On 6 April, the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library informed it has digitized the [complete documentation](#) of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine in English and French. The Special Committee on Palestine was mandated by the General Assembly to ascertain and record facts, and to investigate all questions and issues relevant to the question of Palestine. The Special Committee completed its work on 31 August 1947. The fully digitized documents include meeting records of the Special Committee and its subcommittees. For more information, please consult the website of the [UN Information System on the Question of Palestine \(UNISPAL\)](#) and the Library’s [Research Guide on UN Document Symbols for Ad Hoc Committees](#).

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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