



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

Palestine in the News

**A weekly overview of the most relevant developments on
Question of Palestine (QoP)**

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*A weekly newsletter on the latest news, developments, relevant publications,
And upcoming events on the QoP. This newsletter aims to help the members
of the Global Network on the Question of Palestine (GNQP) to stay informed
of legal, academic, political, and humanitarian developments, and be ready for
action when needed.*

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In the Spotlight

Shortly After a Court Froze Eviction of Salem Family in Sheikh Jarrah, Right-Wing Lawmaker Returns to Provoke Neighborhood, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 23, 2022.

Police fear the evacuation of a Palestinian family for a Jewish settler group could have reignited violence in Jerusalem, particularly due to its timing, just before Ramadan.

Presidency To Israeli Official: No Peace Without a Palestinian State, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 23, 2022.

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022– The Palestinian presidency said that there will be no peace in the region without the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Israeli Court Freezes Sheikh Jarrah Eviction Amid Jerusalem Tensions, (by Nir Hasson), [Haaretz](#), February 22, 2022.

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022 - Less than 24 hours after an Israeli court has frozen an order to evict the Palestinian Salem family from its home in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem, Itamar Bin Gvir, an Israeli right-wing and fascist member of the parliament, the Knesset, returned to the neighborhood to once again incite against its residents and provoke violence.

Israel Drops Terror Funding Charge Against Head of Blacklisted Palestinian NGO, (by Hagar Shezaf), [Haaretz](#), February 22, 2022.

Head of Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, one of six NGOs Israel designated as terror groups, is convicted of membership in Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Amnesty's Israel Chief Says Group's Report was 'Punch to the Gut', [The Palestine Chronicle](#), February 21, 2022.

The executive director of Amnesty International Israel, Molly Malaker, has criticized the group's report labeling Israel as an apartheid state, saying it was a "punch to the gut."

Israeli Authority Backs Down From Jerusalem Park Plan After Outcry From Major Churches, (by Nir Hasson and the Associated Press), [Haaretz](#), February 21, 2022.

Representatives of the three largest churches in Jerusalem warned the plan was an attempt to 'minimize, not to say eliminate, any non-Jewish characteristics of the Holy City.'

Church Leaders Call The Expansion Of Israeli National Park A ‘Direct Attack On The Christians In The Holy Land’, (by Jeff Wright),

[Mondoweiss](#), February 21, 2022.

Church leaders in Jerusalem have expressed their “gravest concern and unequivocal objection” to an Israeli plan to extend the Jerusalem Walls National Park to include the Mount of Olives, one of Christianity’s holiest sites.

Church Leaders: Plan to Expand Jerusalem's National Park Would Change Status Quo,(by Nir Hasson), [HAARETZ](#), February 21, 2022.

Representatives of the three largest churches in Jerusalem warn against attempts of 'various entities' who 'are seeing to minimize, not to say eliminate any non-Jewish characteristics of the Holy City.

Palestinians will Have 'An Entity,' Not A-State, Says Gantz, (by Tovah Lazaroff), [THE JERUSALEM POST](#), February 20, 2022.

In the future, Palestinians will have an entity, but not a full-fledged state, Defense Minister Benny Gantz told the Munich Security Conference on Sunday, February 20,2022.

In 1st, Israel Advanced A Plan To Expand The National Park Onto E. Jerusalem Church Lands,(by Nir Hasson), [THE TIMES OF ISRAEL](#), February 20, 2022.

Israeli officials are preparing to advance an unprecedented project to expand a national park onto church-owned lands and Christian holy sites in East Jerusalem, sparking fierce opposition from local Christian leaders.

Palestine/Israel

Israeli, Palestinian Officials Agree to Cooperate on Climate Change, [HAARETZ](#), February 24, 2022.

At a climate conference in Jerusalem, PLO minister and Israel's climate-change envoy say that the entire region must work together to avert disaster brought on by climate change.

Israeli police detain 14 Palestinian women, four children while in occupied East Jerusalem, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 23, 2022.

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – Israeli police detained 14 Palestinian women and four children from the West Bank while they were in occupied East Jerusalem.

Classes at Al-Lubban Al-Sharqiya Village School Disrupted by Soldiers and Settlers for the Third Day, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 23, 2022.

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022– Classes at al-Lubban al-Sharqiya village school, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, were disrupted again and for the third day in a row after Israeli soldiers and settlers blocked the village entrance and prevented the students from reaching their school located off the main Ramallah-Nablus Road.

‘The Green Girls’ Turn To Agriculture Amid Economic Crisis In Gaza, [Mondoweiss](#), February 22, 2022.

Due to the difficult economic conditions in Gaza two groups of women are turning to agriculture to provide for their families.

Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Boy, 14, in West Bank, [ALJAZEERA](#), February 22, 2022.

The Palestinian health ministry says Mohammed Shehadeh was killed by Israeli forces’ gunfire in Al-Khader area near Bethlehem.

Israeli Occupation Forces Raid Jalazone Refugee Camp in Ramallah, Provoke Confrontations, Detain 10 People, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 22, 2022.

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022– Israeli occupation forces raided Jalazone refugee camp, north of Ramallah, provoking confrontations with residents and detaining 10 people, according to Palestinian security sources.

For The Second Day in A Row, Israeli Settlers, Backed by Soldiers, Disrupt School Day in A West Bank Village, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 22, 2022.

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, and for the second day in a row, Israeli settlers, backed by soldiers, disrupted studies at al-Lubban al-Sharqiya school, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, when they prevented students from reaching their school located on the main Ramallah-Nablus Road.

Terror Funding Charge Dropped In A Plea Deal With Palestinian Aid Worker, (by Stuart Winer and Toi Staff) [THE TIMES OF ISRAEL](#), February 22, 2022.

Khitam Sa’afin was convicted of membership in PFLP but not of funneling money to the terror group, and of leading the Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees before it was outlawed.

Occupation Forces Detain Around 40 Palestinians in The Occupied Territories, Including A Blind Man, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 21, 2022.

The Israeli occupation army detained around 40 Palestinians from various parts of the occupied territories, including blind man, siblings, and fathers and their teenage sons, according to the Palestinian Prisoner Society (PPS) and other sources.

Israeli Settlers, Backed by Soldiers, Attack Students Heading to Their School in A Northern West Bank Village, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 21, 2022.

On Monday, February 21, 2022, Israeli settlers, backed by soldiers, attacked this morning Palestinian students heading to their school in al-Lubban al-Sharqiya village, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, according to witnesses.

Israel Decides Against Jerusalem Barriers During Ramadan Following Clashes Last Year, (by Josh Breiner and Nir Hasson), [Haaretz](#), February 20, 2022.

Senior police officials say the decision shows the placement of barriers last year, which led to escalating unrest, was a serious mistake.

Regional

PLO Official Discusses Latest Political Developments with Latin American Ambassadors in Ramallah, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 23, 2022.

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022 - PLO Executive Committee member, Hussein Al-Sheikh, met in his office in Ramallah with a number of Latin American ambassadors accredited to the State of Palestine, where they discussed the latest political developments.

UNICEF's 'Green Rooftops' Combat Poverty, Unemployment In Jerash Camp, (by Anna Rice), [The Jordan Times](#), February 21, 2022.

UNICEF-backed Sennara project supports social, economic development for Palestinian women, youth.

Economy minister travels to Morocco to deepen trade ties, [The Times of Israel](#), February 20, 2022.

Barbivai scheduled to visit Israeli companies, meet officials; says country 'has great importance for Israel'.

Qatar's parliament speaker stresses firm position on Palestinian cause, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 20, 2022.

On Sunday, February 20, 2022– Speaker of the Qatari Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim underlined the firm position of the State of Qatar on the Palestinian cause and support to the Palestinian people until they obtain their full rights and establish their state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Palestinian cause foremost central issue for Jordan, says parliament speaker, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 20, 2022.

The Palestinian cause is the foremost central issue for Jordan, Jordan's Lower House Speaker Abdulkarim Dughmi said on Sunday, February 20, 2022, stressing rejection of Israeli settlement policies and encroachments on Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian holy sites.

International

Interior Minister Discusses with EU Representative Ways of Further Supporting and Strengthening Unilateral Relations, [Wafa News Agency](#) February 22, 2022.

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022 – Interior minister Ziad Hab al-Reeh met with the European Union Representative to Palestine, Sven Kuehn von Burgsdorff, in Ramallah, where they discussed ways of further supporting and strengthening the unilateral relations.

PM Shtayyeh To Members of The US Congress: Situation in Palestinian Territories May Lead to Explosion, [Wafa News Agency](#) February 21, 2022.

On Monday, February 21, 2022 – Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said that there is a dangerous political vacuum that may result in the explosion of the situation in the Palestinian territories, stressing that Israel is an expansionist state that bears political responsibility for its actions against the Palestinian people.

More Than 100 Civil Society Organizations Launch A Drive For 1 Million EU Citizens' Signatures To Stop European Trade With Illegal Settlements In Occupied Territories, [European Legal Support Center \(ELSC\)](#), February 21, 2022.

A member of BDS Austria is being sued by the Municipality of Vienna for sharing a Facebook post Marking the World Day of Social Justice on February 20 a coalition of more than 100 civil society organizations, has launched a European Citizens Initiative (ECI) to stop trade with illegal settlements in occupied territories.

Austrian Activist Facing Lawsuit, [European Legal Support Center \(ELSC\)](#), Published on Wed Jan 19, 2022 - modified on Fri Feb 18, 2022.

A member of BDS Austria is being sued by the Municipality of Vienna for sharing a Facebook post stating: "Visit Apartheid – Free Palestine". The Municipality has filed a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) to deliberately repress and intimidate BDS-Austria and Palestinian rights advocates. Such a tactic threatens democratic values and fundamental rights.

PA's Abbas hosts US House Speaker Pelosi for a Rare West Bank meeting, (by Aaron Boxerman and Jacob Magid), [THE TIMES OF ISRAEL](#), February 19, 2022.

Palestinian president calls for strengthening bilateral ties amidst frustration in Ramallah over unfulfilled US pledge to reopen Jerusalem consulate.

UN Appoints Arbitration Committee to Probe Israeli Apartheid, (by Tovah Lazaroff), [THE JERUSALEM POST](#), Published: February 17, 2022, Updated: February 19, 2022.

The UN has appointed an arbitration committee to probe Palestinian Authority charges that Israel committed acts of apartheid.

Palestine Welcomes the UN Decision to Set Up a Commission to Probe Israeli Racial Discrimination, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 18, 2022.

On February 18, 2022, Palestine welcomed the United Nations' decision to set up a commission to probe Israeli acts of racial discrimination against the Palestinian people.

Israel Won't Cooperate With UN War Crimes Probe, Accuses Chair of 'anti-Israel Agenda, (by Jonathan Lis), [HAARETZ](#), February 17, 2022.

In a strongly worded letter from the Foreign Ministry, Israel accuses members of the UN commission of inquiry into the latest Gaza war of 'politically motivated' bias and anti-Israel positions.

EU And PA Review €1.42 Billion Of Ongoing European Investments in The Palestinian Economy, [Wafa News Agency](#), February 17, 2022.

On February 17, 2022, and During a high-level policy meeting in Ramallah, the first edition of the European Union – Palestine Investment Review was presented, outlining Team Europe investments at a remarkable amount of EUR 1.42 billion, which forms over 10% of the Palestinian gross domestic product.

Palestinian Refugees and UNRWA

Belgium Supports Palestine Refugees And UNRWA With Early Disbursement Of 2022 Annual Funding Contribution, [UNRWA](#), February 22, 2022.

The Kingdom of Belgium has advanced its annual contribution of EUR 7 million towards the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) 2022 program budget to support the Agency's services to Palestine refugees to the early part of 2022. This crucial and flexible funding is part of a current multi-year agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and UNRWA totaling EUR 21 million between 2021-2023.

UNRWA To Appoint 750 'Permanent' Teachers In Gaza Over Next Three Years, [THE NEW ARAB](#), February 22, 2022.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) announced that 750 teachers will be appointed on fixed-term contracts in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip over the next three years.

UNRWA After School Activities Help Children in Gaza Cope with Stress, [UNRWA](#), February 19, 2022.

The psychosocial support UNRWA provides for Gaza children is very essential. It is a basic right for children to live, learn and play in a safe and stimulating environment. This helps in building better mental health for our children. During the After School Activities, UNRWA provided safe and comprehensive services considering the privacy and confidentiality of children.

Gaza Family Recovers from Traumatic Home Destruction with Help From UNRWA, [UNRWA](#), February 18, 2022.

UNRWA was able to respond to the needs of Palestine refugees directly impacted by the May hostilities thanks to a US\$ 2.5 million grant it received from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) towards the UNRWA Flash Appeal: Hostilities in Gaza and Mounting Tensions in the West Bank. Of this, approximately 70 percent went towards the TSCA, with the remainder supporting mental health and psychosocial after-school activities and summer school activities in Gaza.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Visits Berlin To Meet Representatives Of New German Government And Parliament, [UNRWA](#), February 17, 2022.

The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, concluded a three-day visit to Berlin, his first visit to Germany since the national federal elections held on 26 September 2021. The 14-16 February visit aimed to present the critical role UNRWA plays in stabilizing the Middle East to representatives of the newly formed German Parliament and Government and to explore avenues to enhance the partnership between UNRWA and the Federal Republic of Germany, at a critical juncture of the Agency's existence.

Analysis & Opinions

A Small Respite for Sheikh Jarrah and All of Jerusalem (by Nir Hasson), [HAARETZ](#), February 23, 2022.

Monday's ruling has delayed the eviction of an East Jerusalem family at least until after Ramadan, removing one component of the tensions. But it is still too early to celebrate.

'Transparency Needed About Dutch-Israeli Connections' (by Jeff Handmaker), [Erasmus Magazine](#), February 22, 2022.

Dutch universities have received a request from The Rights Forum to provide documentation on their ties with 'organisations that propagate support for the state of Israel'. Researcher Jeff

Handmaker of the International Institute for Social Studies (ISS) explains why the request was made.

Can Israel Swap Palestinian State for Palestinian Entity? (by Tovah Lazaroff), [THE JERUSALEM POST](#), February 21, 2022.

Palestinians must reflect on the unavoidable truth – that those who have normalized and profited from the Israeli occupation and apartheid cannot possibly be the ones who will bring freedom and justice to Palestine.

The Next Step in Palestine's Anti-Apartheid Struggle Is the Most Difficult, (by Dr. Ramzy Baroud), [MIDDLE EAST MONITOR](#), February 21, 2022.

Benny Gantz was labeled by Netanyahu as being left-wing, but his recent comment about a future Palestinian 'entity' and not state is a reminder that he never supported the two-state solution.

Democrats have a Big Lie, too: 'The 2 state solution', (by Narmin Slamah), [Mondoweiss](#), February 21, 2022.

The story of the Bedouin village Sa'wa in the Naqab is the story of Palestine. Palestinian homes are being demolished and Palestinian families are being expelled to make way for the Israeli settler population.

The 'NYTimes' blackout of the Amnesty 'apartheid' report continues, (by James North), [Mondoweiss](#), February 18, 2022.

The Amnesty apartheid report is fading from view because the New York Times has refused to cover it.

Thanks to Netanyahu's Party, Meir Kahane Has Been Resurrected in Sheikh Jarrah, (by Yossi Verter), [HAARETZ](#), February 18, 2022.

Naftali Bennett was physically in Bahrain this week, but his mind was back in Sheikh Jarrah, making sure that MK Itamar Ben-Gvir's antics don't ignite a war with Hamas.

Publications and Statements

[Statement](#): Statement of The Humanitarian Country Team on The Imminent Eviction of The Salem Family in Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem, UNRWA, February 20, 2022.

Active steps must be taken to de-escalate the situation before another crisis erupts; we urge all political and community leaders to refrain from provocative action and rhetoric. Israeli authorities must take steps to ensure the protection of civilians, including Palestine refugees.

Statement: Joint Statement by Foreign Minister Le Drian and the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Germany and Jordan on the Middle East Peace Process, France Diplomacy, February 19, 2022.

Following their meetings in Munich on February 15, 2020, in Amman on September 24, 2020 and in Cairo on January 11, 2021, and in Paris March 11, 2021, the Ministers had a joint statement on the Middle East peace process.

Book: A Land with A People: new book shares an array of voices united in anti-Zionism, (by Esther Farmer, Rosalind Petchesky, and Sarah Sills), February 18, 2022.

The new book "A Land with A People: Palestinians and Jews Confront Zionism" shares voices and visions rarely heard on the question of Zionism's impact on Palestinians and Jews.

Palestine's Legal Scene | Issue. 111 | 13-19 February 2022, Law for Palestine, February 20, 2022

Civil Society and the Question of Palestine - NGO Action News - 17 February 2022, UNITED NATIONS, February 17, 2022.

EVENTS

Refugee Studies Center – University of Oxford: Palestine Refugees and International Law.

This two-day short course places the Palestinian refugee case study within the broader context of the international human rights regime. It examines, within a human rights framework, the policies and practices of Middle Eastern states as they impinge upon Palestinian refugees. This short course will be held as an online event on Friday 11 March and Saturday 12 March 2022.

Restoring Collective Identity and Dignity: Palestinian Refugees: The Quest for Solutions. Lex Takkenberg in Conversation with Bashir Bashir.

Bashir Bashir is Associate Professor at the Open University of Israel and Senior Research fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. He is co-editor of The Holocaust and Nakba: A New Grammar of Trauma and History (Columbia University Press, 2018); and The Arab and Jewish Questions: Geographies of Engagement in Palestine and Beyond (Columbia University Press, 2020).

Lex Takkenberg is Senior Advisor on the Question of Palestine at the Civil Society Organisation Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development and non-resident Professor of Humanitarian Affairs at Fordham University. Prior to that he held various positions at UNRWA, including Gaza, Syria and HQ.