



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)**

Issue No. 21/2021

14 November 2021

A weekly round-up on the latest news, developments, relevant publications, and upcoming events on the QoP. This round-up 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

The International Ministerial Conference on UNRWA - Sustaining the Rights and Human Development of Palestinian Refugees, UNRWA, November 16, 2021

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of Sweden, together with UNRWA, are convening an international ministerial conference in Brussels, Belgium, to strengthen the international responsibility toward UNRWA to protect the rights and enhance the human development of Palestine refugees.

Opposition Wins First Battle to Build a New Hospital in Israeli Arab City, Haaretz, November 10, 2021

A bill spearheaded by opposition lawmakers to establish a new hospital in the Arab city of Sakhnin passed a preliminary vote. It will be the first official hospital in an Arab city. United Arab List chairman Mansour Abbas opposed the bill.

UN experts alarmed by rise in settler violence in occupied Palestinian territory, OHCHR, November 10, 2021

UN human rights experts, among whom is Michael Lynk, expressed concern over the highest recorded levels of violence directed by Israeli settlers towards Palestinians in 2021.

Israel escalates surveillance of Palestinians with facial recognition program in West Bank, Washington Post, November 8, 2021

Interviews with former Israeli soldiers revealed that over the past two years, soldiers took thousands of photos of Palestinians for a database that is cross-checked with facial recognition technology. A smartphone app, Blue Wolf, then flashes in different colors to alert soldiers if a person is to be detained, arrested, or left alone.

Six Palestinian human rights defenders hacked with NSO Group's Pegasus Spyware, Front Line Defenders, November 8, 2021

An investigation found that Israeli spyware software was found on six phones of Palestinian human rights defenders, three of whom work at organizations that the Israeli government designated "terrorist organizations."

Arab-Israeli party celebrates budget passage, Al-Monitor, November 8, 2021

The Islamic Ra'am Party was able to include in the Bennett-Lapid budget a five-year plan for the socioeconomic development of the Arab community (30 billion shekels, \$9.6 billion), a national

plan on crime and violence in the Arab community (2.5 billion shekels, \$800 million), and the creation of a new Bedouin city in the Negev and the recognition of three Bedouin villages.

Two Weeks On, Israeli Army Extends Palestinian NGO Terror Designation to West Bank, [*Haaretz*](#), November 7, 2021

The chief of the Israeli army's Central Command signed an order declaring that the criminalization six Palestinian organizations deemed as "terrorist organizations" extends to the West Bank, which means that forces can act against the groups immediately.

Palestine/Israel

The Palestinian Security Sector: Entrenching State Repression, [*Al-Shabaka*](#), November 14, 2021

Alaa Tartir argues that although Palestinians seek to "end the oppressive security framework imposed by the Oslo accords, the PA continues to invest politically, financially, and institutionally in the status quo."

Palestinian banks accused of colluding with Israel, [*Al-Monitor*](#), November 12, 2021

Earlier in the month, Palestinian banks in Gaza closed the bank accounts of dozens of associations and civil institutions, claiming they had not renewed their licenses, among other measures. Those whose accounts were frozen accused the banks of working with Israeli against Palestinian CSOs.

Victory for Palestinian hunger striker after 113 days without food, [*The Electronic Intifada*](#), November 12, 2021

Miqdad Qawasmeh suspended his 113-day hunger strike following Israel's agreement to release him in February 2022.

Palestinian Authority might reduce employees' salaries starting from December: official, [*The New Arab*](#), November 11, 2021

The Palestinian Authority's cabinet general said that due to financial hardships from Israel's deductions in tax revenues and the lack of support from Arab countries, employees' salaries will be cut.

It Is Impossible to "Shrink the Conflict," [*Jewish Currents*](#), November 11, 2021

Peter Beinart contextualizes the promises of Israeli leaders to "shrink the conflict," arguing that this "may ease the consciences of Israeli leaders and foreign audiences. To Palestinians, however, it offers only more of the same."

Attorney presses A-G to probe Gantz over NGO terrorist label, [The Jerusalem Post](#), November 11, 2021

Attorney Eitan Mack wrote to Attorney-General Avichai Mandelblit urging him to open a criminal investigation against Defense Minister Benny Gantz for his decision to classify six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organizations and freeze the declaration until the investigation is completed.

Khan Yunis: Remembering the Forgotten Palestinian Massacre, [Palestine Chronicle](#), November 9, 2021

Hebh Jamal calls attention to one of the greatest massacres of Palestinians, the Khan Yunis massacre in 1956, in efforts to take over the Suez Canal.

Israeli police arrest 65 Arabs over illegal arms dealing, [BBC](#), November 9, 2021

Israeli forces arrested 65 Palestinians from the West Bank and Israel who they suspect are illegally trafficking arms.

Adalah calls to reject an Israeli Government proposed bill allowing warrantless searches that will lead to racial policing, [Adalah](#), November 9, 2021

Adalah released a statement calling on members of Knesset to reject a proposed bill that expands Israeli forces' jurisdiction to raid homes, businesses, and places of entertainment and to seize property without a warrant.

Israeli Army Only Discovered Foreign Media Was Based in Gaza Tower After Strike Began, [Haaretz](#), November 8, 2021

The IDF claims that it only discovered that the Associated Press and Al Jazeera had offices in a building it shelled in the Gaza Strip in May after the strike began.

Despite Abuses of NSO Spyware, Israel Will Lobby U.S. to Defend It, [The New York Times](#), November 8, 2021

In response to the Biden's administration sanctions on the NSO Group, Israel plans to lobby Washington to remove the company from the blacklist, arguing that the software is intended to help countries combat organized crime and terrorism.

Dozens of Palestinians injured in Israeli West Bank raids, [The New Arab](#), November 7, 2021

Occupation forces carried out raids in Al-Bireh, Silwad and Jenin, resulting in suffocation and bullet injuries of Palestinians.

Israel suggests US open consulate for Palestinians in West Bank, not Jerusalem, [The New Arab](#), November 7, 2021

Following the Biden administration's announcement to consider reopening the Palestinian consulate in Jerusalem, Bennett affirmed his opposition to the idea and instead Foreign Minister Lapid proposed a consulate in Ramallah.

They should have been lawyers. Instead they're at Israeli construction sites, [+972 Magazine](#), November 7, 2021

Young educated Palestinians are increasingly believing that pursuing higher education is futile, as they have discovered that the only way to make a proper living is to work as laborers in Israeli construction sites.

Empty Stomachs, Unbreakable Will: Palestinian Prisoners' Defiant Pursuit of Justice, [Palestine Chronicle](#), November 7, 2021

Six Palestinian prisoners have undertaken indefinite hunger-strikes in protest of Israel's policy of administrative detention, four of whom are now in critical conditions.

How the Occupation Harms Not Only the Palestinians, but the Planet Too, [Haaretz](#), November 7, 2021

The double road system, increased carbon emissions due to lengthy trips with checkpoints, wasteful construction, the control of water resources, and more contributes to climate warming.

Regional

Staunch Sudan-Israel normalisation backer named in Sudan Sovereign Council, [The New Arab](#), November 12, 2021

Businessman Abou al-Qassem Bortoum, who advocates for Sudanese-Israeli normalization, was appointed to Sudan's Sovereign Council.

Arab-Israeli legislator meets king of Jordan, [Al-Monitor](#), November 10, 2021

Mansour Abbas, head of the Ra'am Party in the Israeli Knesset, met with King Abdullah of Jordan to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian territories and advancing the peace process.

Israel preparing for possible strike on Iran nuclear facilities, military chief says, [The New Arab](#), November 10, 2021

Israeli army Chief Aviv Kochavi said that Israel's military has been intensifying its preparations for a possible attack on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Libya's Haftar 'may normalise relations with Israel' for election support: reports, [The New Arab](#), November 9, 2021

It is rumored that Khalifa Haftar of Libya is considering normalizing relations with Israel for support in upcoming elections.

International

Russia attempts to reconcile Palestinian president, Dahlan, [Al-Monitor](#), November 12, 2021

Following the visit of the dismissed Fatah leader Mohammad Dahlan to Russia early November and ahead of Mahmoud Abbas' visit to Moscow in a week, it is rumored that Russia will mediate to generate a reconciliation within the Fatah movement.

JCB failed to do checks over potential use of equipment in Palestine, [The Guardian](#), November 12, 2021

A UK government watchdog said that JCB, the British tractor firm, failed to "carry out due diligence human rights checks over the potential use of its equipment to demolish homes" in the oPT.

US, Israel, UAE, Bahrain launch joint naval drills in Red Sea, [Al Jazeera](#), November 11, 2021

The US Navy announced that the US, Bahrain, Israel, and the UAE began a five-day naval training course, the first time since UAE and Bahrain normalized relations with Israel.

Israeli firm NSO pushed its government to ask U.S. counterparts about lifting sanctions, [Axios](#), November 11, 2021

According to a letter obtained by Axios, Israeli company NSO requested that the Israeli government try to lift the sanctions imposed by the US Dept. of Commerce against hem.

US Changes Vote from ‘No’ to ‘Abstention’ on UN Resolution on Palestinian Right of Return, [Palestine Chronicle](#), November 10, 2021

The US, under the Biden administration, abstained on a UN General Assembly Resolution affirming the right of return for Palestinian refugees, returning to the Obama-era trend.

U.S. pushes for progress on Israel-Lebanon border dispute, [Axios](#), November 10, 2021

U.S. energy envoy Amos Hochstein told Israel and Lebanon that if they cannot reach an agreement in the maritime border dispute before the March 2022 parliamentary election in Lebanon, he will stop dealing with the issue.

Pressure grows on U.S. to accept or reverse Israel’s ‘act of tyranny’ — but State Dep’t ducks the question, [Mondoweiss](#), November 9, 2021

Pressure is growing on the US government to accept the designation of Palestinian groups as terrorists or call on Israel to reverse it. State Department spokesperson Ned Price sidestepped a direct question about it at a press briefing, saying they still need to take a closer look. Israeli human rights attorney Michael Sfard analyzes the US' options.

WhatsApp can sue Israeli firm NSO Group, US appeals court rules, [Al Jazeera](#), November 8, 2021

A United States appeals court ruled that WhatsApp may proceed with a lawsuit against Israeli NSO group "over the alleged targeting of its servers in California with malware to gain unauthorised access to approximately 1,400 mobile devices in violation of US state and federal law."

Blacklisting Is Not Enough: Democrats Want Sanctions on Israeli Spyware Firm NSO, [Haaretz](#), November 7, 2021

Four Democratic lawmakers called upon the Biden administration to take measures against Israeli spyware firms NSO and Candiru beyond blacklisting to prevent citizens from financing them through investment funds.

Palestinian Refugees and UNRWA

Lebanon: Drugs cheaper than food for Palestinian refugees, Middle East Eye, November 11, 2021

In Beddawi refugee camp, near Tripoli, Captagon, the counterfeited brand name stamped onto a variety of amphetamines, is flooding the camps. A pill costs almost the same as a can of Pepsi.

Renewal of Zakat certificate from the National Zakat Foundation (NZF) expands UNRWA Zakat Programme, UNRWA, November 11, 2021

National Zakat Foundation (NZF) Worldwide has renewed and expanded the "zakat" certification and eligibility for the food and cash assistance of the UNRWA.

Extended Collaboration Between The Qatar Fund For Development And UNRWA, UNRWA, November 9, 2021

The Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) announced a USD 18 million contribution to UNRWA in support of its core resources for 2021 and 2022 - \$10 million for 2021 and \$8 million for 2022; they also contributed \$7 million to UNRWA in support of its emergency programme in Syria.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarani Concludes Visit to the United Kingdom, UNRWA, November 8, 2021

The Commissioner-General of UNRWA visited the UK to update British stakeholders on the Agency's financial standing, emphasize the role that UNRWA plays in the Middle East region, and stress the importance of restoring UK funding to previous levels.

Publications

State Business: Israel's misappropriation of land in the West Bank through settler violence, B'tselem, November 14, 2021

Israel allows the misappropriation of land and establishment of settlements in the West Bank by legalizing land takeover and legitimizing physical violence against Palestinians.

Dismantling the Violent Discourse of the State Of Israel: On Zionism, Palestinian Liberation, and the Power Of Language, Ramzy Baroud and Romana Rubeo for Janus Unbound: Journal of Critical Studies, November, 2021

This article examines the lexicon surrounding Israeli colonism and the occupation of Palestine, particularly emphasizing the language of Israel's Zionist ideology. The authors argue for Palestinians claiming their own narrative as part of their ongoing struggle for liberation and, ultimately, decolonization.

Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (04 – 10 November 2021), [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#), November 11, 2021

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights documents human rights violations in the oPT from Nov. 4 to 10.

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, [UNSCO](#), November 11, 2021

The United Nations report emphasizes the urgency to address the economic situation in Palestine (and the PA) in a comprehensive and holistic way.

Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee- November 2021, [World Bank](#), November 9, 2021

A new World Bank report has revealed that due to improved activity in the West Bank, the Palestinian economy is showing "signs of recovery," but Gaza is still suffering. It said that the PA faced a \$1.36 billion deficit this year, and direct donor funding to the PA has dropped by 85% in the last 13 years (38% in 2020).

UN Agencies and the Association of International Development Agencies stand by civil society organisations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, [United Nations and AIDA](#), November 9, 2021

UN agencies and 83 International NGOs working in the Occupied Palestinian Territory issued a statement condemning the declaration by Israeli Military Orders of the six Palestinian NGOs as unauthorized in the West Bank.

The Palestinian Student Movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip [AR], [Ahmad Heneiti for the Institute for Palestine Studies](#), November 9, 2021

This study examines the student movements in Palestine, compares them to movements in the 70s and 80s, and contextualizes the decline in activity.

Protection of Civilians Report | 19 October - 1 November 2021, [OCHA](#), November 7, 2021

From October 19 to November 1, Israeli forces injured 103 Palestinians across the West Bank, carried out 79 search-and-arrest operations and arrested 109 Palestinians across the West Bank, and demolished or seized 22 Palestinian-owned structures. In Gaza, no injuries were reported, but there were at least 27 instances of Israeli forces opening warning fire near Israel's perimeter fence and off the coast of Gaza. According to the report, no Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces during this period.

Events

Old Conflict, New Frameworks, Evolving Discourses: The Future Of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 30 Years After Madrid, [Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy and the US Institute for Peace](#), November 16, 2021

30 years after the Madrid Peace Conference, the webinar reflects on "the future of Madrid's unfinished business in the shadow of triumphs and failed efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts."

Palestine from Above, [Institute for Palestine Studies](#), November 16, 2021

The event launches the book Palestine from Above, which consists of two editions of the Jerusalem Quarterly (81 and 82), an English-language publication issued by the Institute for Palestine Studies, that discusses how the territory is viewed from above, with contributors from inside and outside Palestine.

Human Rights Book Salon: Hedi Viterbo - "Problematizing Law, Rights, And Childhood In Israel/Palestine," [Pozen Family Center for Human Rights at University of Chicago](#), November 17, 2021

Hedi Viterbo, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Law at Queen Mary University of London will speak about his new book, Problematizing Law, Rights, and Childhood in Israel/Palestine. His book radically challenges our picture of law, human rights, and childhood, both in and beyond the Israel/Palestine context. He examines how both the state and its critics manufacture, shape, and weaponize the categories "child" and "adult."

Setting the Stage for Emerging Contemporary Art in Palestine, [Belfer Center at Harvard Kennedy School](#), November 17, 2021

James Snyder, MEI Senior Fellow, will speak with Aline Houry, Jerusalem-born art historian and contemporary curator. She is Managing Director of Dar Yusuf Nasri Jacir for Art and Research in

Bethlehem, an artist-led collaborative that seeks to create an independent platform for emerging artists in Palestine.

Welcome to the Panopticon: Israel's Systematic Surveillance of Palestinians and the Implications for the World, [The Foundation for Middle East Peace](#), November 18, 2021

FMEP will host a conversation with four experts on recent developments regarding Israel's cyber-surveillance of Palestinians.

Beyond Settlers and Natives: South Africa and Palestine in Comparison, [Cornell Institute for Comparative Modernities \(ICM\)](#), November 18, 2021

Scholars Loubna Qutami and Virginia Tilley will discuss the conceptual and historical ramifications of comparing South Africa and Palestine.

The Nakba and its Generational Impact on Palestinian lives: Memory, Identity, and a Future Rooted in Justice, [The Foundation for Middle East Peace](#), November 19, 2021

Speakers will tell personal stories about the ethnic cleansing of their homes, the trauma of the (ongoing) Nakba, and what justice looks like.

Funding Challenges and Their Impact on Palestinian Culture, [Institute for Palestine Studies](#), November 24, 2021

The session will explore cultural production in Palestine and how society can work together to fill the gaps of funding shortages.

Palestine and International Law: Effectiveness and Prospects, [Law for Palestine](#), November 29, 2021

The Conference hosts senior experts on the Palestinian actors and different framework from an international legal perspective, challenges and opportunities that would lead to more efficiency in utilizing International Law with regard to the Palestinian cause, and networking among Jurists and researchers interested in Palestine.