



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. 20/2021

07 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.

<i>In the Spotlight</i>	1
<i>Palestine/Israel</i>	2
<i>Regional</i>	6
<i>International</i>	7
<i>Palestinian Refugees and UNRWA</i>	8
<i>Publications</i>	9
<i>Events</i>	10

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.

Secret Israeli dossier provides no proof for declaring Palestinian NGOs ‘terrorists’, +972 Magazine, November 4, 2021

An examination of the dossier sent to European country representatives shows that the drafters based their accusations on what they alleged was “common knowledge,” or information they claimed was widely “known.” The dossier did not provide a single piece of evidence proving the six organizations diverted their funds to the PFLP or to violent activities.

“I Would Like to See *The New York Times* Wash the Blood Off Its Hands,” The Nation, November 4, 2021

Noura Erakat interviews Mohammed El-Kurd, a Palestinian poet, writer, and activist who grew up in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, about his upbringing, activism, the Unity Intifada, the representation of Palestine in media, and his book of poetry, *Rifqa*.

What Apartheid Means for Israel, The New York Review, November 5, 2021

Tareq Baconi argues that the power of two reports by B’Tselem and Human Rights Watch that argue that Israel’s regime in the occupied Palestinian territories amounts to apartheid lies in challenge to a pervasive myth, one to which much of the international community subscribes, that Israel’s military rule in the occupied Palestinian territory can be treated as somehow separate from the state of Israel.

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 - A/76/433 (Advance unedited version) OHCHR, October 21, 2021

The Special Rapporteur highlights the apartheid nature of Israeli occupation and the abuses that have resulted in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and emphasizes how “enablers,” namely powerful states such as the US, EU, Quartet, and World Bank should correct the asymmetry of power between the Palestinians and Israelis.

UNRWA and Lebanon Complex Crisis Repercussions on Palestinian refugees – What Response; What Role?! [*The Peacebuilding in Lebanon*](#), September 23, 2021

This article, by Jaber Suleiman, addresses the repercussions of the “complex” Lebanese crisis on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon from 2019 till present. It sheds light on the fact that UNRWA, by virtue of its legal responsibility for relief, employment, and protection of Palestinian refugees, has played and is playing in mitigating repercussions.

Palestine/Israel

Another Child Victim... IOF Kill Child in Nablus, [*Palestinian Centre for Human Rights*](#), November 6, 2021

Israeli troops shot and killed Mohammed Da’adas, a 13-year-old Palestinian boy, in Deir al-Hatab village, east of Nablus, albeit no imminent threat or danger to the soldiers’ lives at the time the child was targeted. Since the beginning of the year, the number of deaths amounted to 32, including 8 children, in protests and clashes with IOF across the West Bank.

Why a Political Comeback for Israel’s Netanyahu Just Became a Lot Less Likely, [*Foreign Policy*](#), November 5, 2021

The perceived nature of Bennet-Lapid government’s “more accommodating approach” to Palestinian’s and the less intense rhetoric surrounding the Iranian nuclear program, has caused relief domestically and internationally.

Stopping the environmental Nakba, [*Mondoweiss*](#), November 4, 2021

The Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability issued a statement claiming the world is in a global catastrophe, or an environmental Nakba and argued that the world must liberate minds from mental colonization, use indigenous knowledge and practices, among other calls to action.

Case Against Jaffa Residents Who Confessed to Attacking Soldier Dropped After Video Emerges, [*Haaretz*](#), November 4, 2021

Prosecutors withdrew an indictment they filed against three Arab residents of Jaffa for an assault and attempted murder of a soldier; the three had confessed, but new video evidence showed they were not present at the scene of the crime.

'A lifetime lost': Israeli settler attacks on olive crops helps spearhead land grabs in Palestine, [*The New Arab*](#), November 3, 2021

The inhabitants of the Palestinian town, Mazraa Gharbiyah (also known as Mazraa Al-Qibliyah), Southeast of Ramallah, have been unable to access their olive fields freely, and are given permits by the Israeli army only twice a year to plough the land and harvest in the fall. This year, the farmers found that more than 300 of their olive trees had been destroyed by Israeli settlers, just one of many instances of land expropriation and choking of Palestinian agriculture.

Israeli parliament approves 2021 national budget, [Reuters](#), November 3, 2021

For the first time in three years, Israel's parliament approved the national budget, with the legislature voting 61-59 vote in favor of the 2021 budget in a test for Bennett's coalition of right-wing, centrist, left-wing and Arab parties.

UN experts say Israeli settlement expansion 'tramples' on human rights law, [OHCHR](#), November 3, 2021

Michael Lynk and Balakrishnan Rajagopal condemned the announcement by the Israeli Government to build thousands of new housing units in its West Bank and East Jerusalem settlements and called upon the international community to support the current investigation into the Israeli settlements by the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court.

Israeli forces assault diplomat, olive harvesters in Bethlehem-district town, [Wafa](#), November 3, 2021

South Africa's Counselor-Political, Lesiba Machaba, and municipality staff joined Palestinian farmers in harvesting olives in Tuqu'town, southeast of Bethlehem, and were assaulted by Israeli forces, who fired tear gas canisters and stun grenades at them and forced them to leave at gunpoint.

Israel demolishes Muslim cemetery near Al Aqsa Mosque to build park, [Al-Monitor](#), November 2, 2021

Occupation forces escalated their siege on Yusufiya cemetery as they prepare to turn part of the cemetery into a public biblical park. They fenced the walls surrounding the cemetery, installed surveillance cameras, and fired tear gas. The project is part of larger efforts to further Judaize Jerusalem.

New platform documents digital censorship of Palestinians, [Al Jazeera](#), November 2, 2021

The Arab Center for Social Media Development (7amleh) launched a website that centralizes digital rights violations and censorship by social media companies against Palestinians and Palestine-related content.

Raed Jadallah wanted to get home after work; soldiers lying in ambush shot him to death, [B'Tselem](#), November 2, 2021

Raed Jadallah, a 39-year-old resident of Beit 'Ur a-Tahta, was fatally shot by soldiers lying in ambush as he returned home. B'Tselem's investigation indicates that the force fired at Jadallah for no apparent reason, and the occupation military released two different versions of the incident.

Sheikh Jarrah residents reject 'oppressive' agreement with settlers, [Mondoweiss](#), November 2, 2021

The residents of Sheikh Jarrah announced they are rejecting the Israeli Supreme Court's proposal to render Palestinian residents as "protected tenants" who would pay an annual rental fee of 2,400 shekels (\$750) to Nahalat Shimonim, the settler organization seeking to evict them from their homes.

Palestinian administrative detainee in Israel fighting for his freedom suspends 69 days of hunger strike, [Wafa](#), November 2, 2021

Shadi Abu Aker, a 37-year-old resident of Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem who was placed under administrative detention without charge or trial, suspended his 69-day hunger strike following the Israeli Prison Service's decision to terminate his detention in April 2022.

Right-wing Tel Aviv Protest Draws Hundreds Ahead of Key Budget Vote, [Haaretz](#), November 2, 2021

Several hundred people in Tel Aviv protested the inclusion of the United Arab List in the Bennett-Lapid coalition ahead of the approval of the 2021-2022 budget.

The Arab-Israeli Power Broker in the Knesset, [The New Yorker](#), November 1, 2021

Mansour Abbas, leader of the United Arab List, plays a balancing act of appeasing two entrenched factions, and both Israelis and Palestinians are hesitant to support him.

West Bank demolitions and displacement: An Overview | September 2021, [OCHA](#), November 1, 2021

The number of structures demolished or seized in the West Bank, and people displaced in September was the lowest recorded since June 2017. Eight structures were targeted - three in Area C and five in East Jerusalem. The number of structures demolished or seized, and people

displaced, so far in 2021 represents an increase of 21 and 28 percent respectively, compared with the equivalent figures in 2020.

Thirty Years On: The Ruse of the Middle East Peace Process, [*Al-Shabaka*](#), October 31, 2021

Al-Shabaka policy analyst, Inès Abdel Razek, explores how the bilateral negotiations framework has consolidated and maintained Israel's hegemony over the Palestinians. The policy brief is structured around three points: liberal negotiation theory in the context of military occupation, sustaining the Middle East peace process to entrench systemic domination, and breaking the peace process cycle.

Palestinians vow to defend graves in Jerusalem cemetery, [*Al Jazeera*](#), October 31, 2021

Palestinians have been increasing their presence at the centuries-old Al-Yousufiya Cemetery, also known as the Bab al-Asbat (Lion's Gate) Cemetery. They aimed to protect their dead and confront Israeli forces, which in turn responded with tear gas, stun grenades, physical beatings, arrests, and temporary bans on individuals from visiting the cemetery.

Opinion: Israel escalates its attacks against defenders of Palestinian rights, wherever they may be, [*Washington Post*](#), October 30, 2021

Yousef Munayyer contextualizes the Israeli government's designation of six Palestinian human rights as "terrorist groups."

Rights group reports Israel blocked entry of medical devices to Gaza, [*Mondoweiss*](#), October 29, 2021

A third of essential drugs and a fifth of medical disposables were reported to be in "zero stock" in September, according to Al Mezan, a Gaza-based human rights monitor, and Israel has banned the entry of fourteen medical imaging devices (eight portable devices and six stationary ones) into the Gaza Strip which were donated by Palestinian charities.

Q&A: Mohammed El-Kurd on The Nation, poetry, and shifting the Palestine narrative, [*Columbia Journalism Review*](#), October 29, 2021

Mohammed El-Kurd speaks to the Columbia Journalism Review about his plan to cover Palestinian resistance for The Nation in a way that emphasizes the Palestinian perspective and advocates for the oppressed and his collection of poems in the book Rifqa.

Palestine's National Children Council- Gaza Strip Participates in Accountability Session on Child Labor in Palestine with Government Officials, [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#), October 28, 2021

Palestine's National Children Council- Gaza Strip, sponsored by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) in partnership with Save the Children, participated in an accountability session on child labor in Palestine with ministries, government officials, and child representatives.

Intl. Law Expert Albanese Speaks to the Palestine Chronicle on the Banning of Six Palestinian NGOs, [Palestine Chronicle](#), October 28, 2021

Palestine Chronicle interviews Francesca Albanese on how the six Palestinian organizations labeled as "terrorist groups" by the Israeli government are the "last bastion" of protection of the people under occupation and are being targeted because they expose the brutality of the occupation. Albanese situates the decision in the context of the International Criminal Court and international law.

Israel gives final OK to 1,800 West Bank settler homes, [RFI](#), October 27, 2021

Israel's Civil Administration gave final approval to build 1,800 settler homes and endorsed another 1,344 in the West Bank, a day after the US forcefully criticized such construction.

UN experts condemn Israel's designation of Palestinian human rights defenders as terrorist organizations, [OHCHR](#), October 25, 2021

Several UN human rights experts condemned the decision by Benny Gantz to designate six Palestinian human rights and civil society groups as terrorist organizations and said this is a misuse of counter-terrorism measures and serves as a frontal attack on the Palestinian human rights movement.

Regional

Israeli, Jordanian economy ministers sign West Bank export deal, [Al-Monitor](#), November 4, 2021

Israeli Economy Minister and Jordanian Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply signed an agreement that should expand future caps on products that Jordan may export to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, including construction materials, rugs, fabric, clothing, and electronics.

Suspected Israeli missiles hit near Syrian capital, [Al-Monitor](#), November 3, 2021

Official news outlet SANA reported that a “number” of Israeli missiles hit unspecified “posts” in the Zakyia area of the Damascus countryside at 3am and said only material damage occurred.

Syrian air defences intercept Israeli missiles aimed at Damascus area -state media, [Reuters](#), October 30, 2021

Syrian air defenses intercepted Israeli missiles targeted at sites in countryside around the capital Damascus, according to a military statement. Two soldiers were injured, and some material losses occurred, the statement added.

International

Apartheid’s spiritual devastation is theme of ‘NYT’ Israel travelogue that uses the a-word only once, [Mondoweiss](#), November 4, 2021

NYT's Israel bureau chief Patrick Kingsley subtly subverts efforts to “bury the ‘apartheid’ charge” through documenting travels throughout the territory, although only using the word “apartheid” once, and challenges the idea that the Palestinian issue is “shrinking.”

New US Ambassador to Israel Pledges to Fight BDS, [Palestine Chronicle](#), November 4, 2021

The new US ambassador to Israel, Thomas R. Nides, has pledged to fight the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, support the Abraham Accords, strengthen bonds with Israel, and replenish its Iron Dome missile defense system.

The Downstream Effects of Israel’s “Terrorist” Designation on Human Rights Defenders in the US, [Just Security](#), November 4, 2021

Diala Shamas argues that silence from the US on the Israeli designation of Palestinian human rights groups as terrorist organizations would be a concession to the strategy of bullying the Palestinian rights community that has been so central to Israeli policy these past years.

Words without Action: The West’s Role in Israel’s Illegal Settlement Expansion, [Palestine Chronicle](#), November 3, 2021

Ramzy Baroud criticizes the international community's lack of serious action towards Israel’s continued disregard of international law, as they continue to issue statements but refrain from taking action.

Concluding General Debate, Speakers Call for Modernization of Fourth Committee's Approaches to Western Sahara, Israeli-Palestinian Issues, United Nations, November 3, 2021

The general debate on the Fourth Committee on Special Political and Decolonization witnessed the Israeli representative and the US representative urging the Committee to reconsider the attendance of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of Palestinian People and Other Arabs of Occupied Territories, saying it "damages the prospect for peace in the Middle East and promotes one-sided propaganda, ignoring Israeli efforts to achieve peace." Other MENA reps dismissed this intervention.

Houston contractor sues Texas over state ban of Israel boycott, Al Jazeera, November 2, 2021

A&R Engineering and Testing Inc in Houston sued the state of Texas saying the state's ban on doing business with companies that participate in a boycott of Israel is unconstitutional.

Palestine Action shuts down Israel arms supplier's HQ on Balfour Declaration anniversary, The New Arab, November 2, 2021

UK-based activist group Palestine Action occupied the Bristol headquarters of Elbit Systems, Israel's largest privately owned arms manufacturer, on the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. It was the latest in a series of demonstrations against Elbit in the UK.

US: 200 House Republicans urge Biden not to reopen Jerusalem consulate, Middle East Eye, November 1, 2021

Two hundred Republican lawmakers signed a letter that opposed the Biden administration's plans to reopen the US consulate in East Jerusalem that historically served Palestinians but was closed by the Trump administration in 2019. They argued that reopening the consulate would be inconsistent with the decision that recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Palestinian Refugees and UNRWA

UN Palestine refugee aid agency 'close to collapse' after funding cuts, The Guardian, November 5, 2021

The UK halved its donations to UNRWA in 2021; as a result, the commissioner general of UNRWA stated that the decrease in aid is "the equivalent of more than 70,000 boys and girls" in their schools.

Safadi, Irish FM discuss support for UNRWA, region, Jordan Times, November 4, 2021

Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi and Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney met and discussed the Palestinian cause and efforts towards peace negotiations. Safadi, among other topics. Safadi thanked Coveney for Ireland's support of the Palestinian people and UNRWA, noting Ireland's additional donations to the agency.

Mental Health Gardens: UNRWA Finds New Ways To Integrate Wellness With Stress Relieving Spaces For Palestine Refugees In Syria, UNRWA, November 4, 2021

In Neirub camp, near Aleppo, Syria, a UNRWA distribution worker created a garden near the UNRWA distribution center as a place for Palestine refugees to gather while they wait for assistance. Workers have noticed that the garden has brought relief to Palestinian refugees as well as staff.

At Copenhagen Conference, Rights Group Calls for Int'l Protection for Palestinian Refugees, Palestinian Return Centre, November 2, 2021

In an international conference held in Copenhagen on October 30, the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) sounded the alarm over the squalid humanitarian condition faced by the Palestinians of Syria in displacement camps across the war-torn country, including Yarmouk Camp.

UAE sends financial support for UNRWA to build school in Gaza, WAM – Emirates News Agency, November 2, 2021

The UAE has provided \$600,000 in financial support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to build the Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan School in the Gaza Strip.

Publications

Third Committee Approves 13 Draft Resolutions, among Them, on Palestinians' Right to Statehood, Crimes Affecting Environment, Human Rights Council Report, United Nations, November 5, 2021

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) sent 13 draft resolutions to the General Assembly covering a range of social development issues, such as a draft resolution on the right

of the Palestinian people to self-determination which was approved by 158 in favor to 6 against and 10 abstentions.

Twenty Questions (and Answers) on Palestine/Israel, [*The Institute for Middle East Understanding*](#), November 5, 2021

The guide is designed to help elucidate both the history and current dynamics of Israel/Palestine and help address the most common issues that arise in relation to it from a principled foundation.

Designated Shrinking Space: Israel's Systematic Harassment Campaigns Against Al-Haq, are the Acts of an Illegal Apartheid Regime, [*Al-Haq*](#), November 1, 2021

This brief provides an overview of past and recent attacks perpetrated by the Israel government and its affiliates against Al-Haq within the context of the shrinking space imposed on the Palestinian civil society as a whole and analyzes these attacks through the lens of international human rights.

Events

Waste Siege: The Life of Infrastructure in Palestine, [*Bethlehem University*](#), November 10, 2021

Based on her book, Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins offers an analysis of the environmental, infrastructural, and aesthetic context in which Palestinians forge their lives, naming that context a "waste siege." The author argues that to speak of waste siege is to describe a series of conditions, from smelling wastes to negotiating military infrastructures, from biopolitical forms of colonial rule to experiences of governmental abandonment, from obvious targets of resistance to confusion over responsibility for the burdensome objects of daily life.

Resisting Online Censorship of Activists (co-hosted with Palestine Legal), [*Civil Liberties Defense Center*](#), November 11, 2021

CLDC and Palestine Legal will discuss the problem of big tech companies increasingly censoring dissenting voices on social media and conferencing platform and will introduce alternative technology options that could help ensure access to the digital commons.

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 Khoury, 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.

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.

Networked Refugees: Palestinian Reciprocity and Remittances in the Digital Age, [Belfer Center at Harvard Kennedy School](#), December 9, 2021

Nadya Hajj, Whitehead Associate Professor of Critical Thought and Co-Director of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at Wellesley College, will discuss her latest book, *Networked Refugees: Palestinian Reciprocity and Remittances in the Digital Age*.