



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

GNQP Media Round-up

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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Top Stories:

PA crackdown shakes Palestinians but fails to halt protests, [*The Arab Weekly*](#), July 16, 2021

Despite the crackdown, the US and European countries still view the PA as a crucial partner in managing the conflict.

U.S. point person on Israel-Palestine says PA facing dangerous economic crisis, [*AXIOS*](#), July 15, 2021

The Palestinian Authority is going through a deep legitimacy crisis after the postponement of the parliamentary elections and the death of a political activist in the custody of Palestinian security forces. The situation has been exacerbated by a financial crisis largely driven by the coronavirus pandemic.

The America that Israel and Palestine Need, [*Project Syndicate*](#), July 16, 2021

Joe Biden promised to make democracy and human rights central to US foreign policy. But that means not insisting on Israel's right to defend itself without mentioning its expansion of settlements in occupied Palestinian territory, its policy of discrimination, and its denial of the Palestinians' right to an independent state.

Western Media Covers Israel-Palestine Conflict with Pro-Israel Bias, Experts Say, [*Media File*](#), July 15, 2021

"The problem with coverage on Palestine [is that] it's all covered as 'escalating violence.' None of those stories wrote the problem of this displacement as part of this on-going ethnic cleansing campaign that has existed for generations," Abdallah Fayyad, journalist and columnist for the Boston Globe, told MediaFile.

So They Know We Existed': Palestinians Film War in Gaza, [*NYT*](#), July 14, 2021

Trapped in deadly fighting between Israel and Hamas, Palestinians in Gaza used their phones to capture the toll of the 11-day war in May.

Demolition without borders: Israel demolishes mobile clinic serving 450, as well as agricultural structures in South Hebron Hills and agricultural pool in northern Jordan Valley, [*Btselem*](#), July 12, 2021

These are not exceptional cases. Rather, they are part of Israel's routine harassment of Palestinian communities in the South Hebron Hills and northern Jordan Valley, in a bid to expel them from their homes and area of residence.

Has Israel's army become too small?, *Al-Monitor*, July 13, 2021

Outgoing IDF deputy chief of staff Eyal Zamir warned this week that Israel's army would struggle to manage the multiple threats facing the country.

Palestinians Find New Unity After War With Israel, *Foreign Policy*, July 13, 2021

"I'd still say this conflict was different," he added. "Palestinians have gained confidence, even though the devastation in Gaza is widespread. They felt like they were able to stand up to Israel for the first time."

How Palestinian-Israeli conflict changed the way social media firms deal with content, *Arab News*, July 12, 2021

Throughout May, 7amleh documented more than 700 cases of Palestinian digital rights violations on social media. Nadim Nashif, director of 7amleh, said that social media companies should be transparent about any removal requests received from governments.

The Rebuilding of Gaza Amid Dire Conditions: Damage, Losses, and Needs, *Modern Diplomacy*, July 10, 2021

A Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) reveals up to US\$380 million in physical damage and US\$190 million in economic losses. Recovery needs have been estimated up to US\$485 million during the first 24 months.

Latest Developments:

No ambulances amid the bombings: How Gaza's COVID-19 patients survived Israel's military assault, *Mondoweiss*, July 16, 2021

Palestinians in Gaza who tested positive for COVID-19 during the recent escalation with Israel struggled to care for their health and their families, amid both airstrikes and overwhelmed hospitals.

Israeli authorities approve 510 new units at illegal settlements near Bethlehem, *The New Arab*, July 16, 2021

The Gush Etzion council, which represents Jewish settlers in the area, approved the developments in the settlements south and east of Bethlehem.

Settler, Masked Person Filmed Shooting at Palestinians as Israeli Soldiers Watch, [*Haaretz*](#), July 16, 2021

Two Palestinians were killed in May clashes near the West Bank settlement of Yitzhar, but it is unclear which shooters were responsible

Palestine runs dry: 'Our water they steal and sell to us', [*Al-Jazeera*](#), July 15, 2021

Israeli authorities refuse to grant licenses to Palestinian water authorities to operate freely in areas under complete Israeli security control.

Israel bars jailed Palestinian lawmaker from daughter's funeral, [*The New Arab*](#), July 13, 2021

The New York-based Human Rights Watch said Khalida Jarrar's repeated arrests are part of Israel's wider crackdown on non-violent political opposition to its half-century military occupation of Palestinian land.

Palestine's wholesale price index down by half percentage point during second quarter of 2021, [*Wafa News Agency*](#), July 15, 2021

The overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in Palestine decreased in the second quarter of 2021 by 0.49% compared with the first quarter of the same year, today said the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).

Campaigners protesting at Puma offices joined by member of Palestinian national team, [*Morning Star Online*](#), July 11, 2021

Campaigners protesting outside Puma offices in Manchester on Saturday against at the sports brand's support for Israeli apartheid were joined by a member of Palestine's national team.

Israel is seizing cryptocurrency wallets from the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which has been using them to raise funds from donors worldwide, [*Business Insider*](#), July 10, 2021

Israel has begun seizing cryptocurrency wallets used by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, the Associated Press and Al Jazeera reported.

Forget the Iron Dome: This Israeli Laser Is Changing Air Defense, [National Interest](#), July 15, 2021

The Israelis have been evaluating a project along these lines since the early 2000's, when a laser missile defense system was proposed as an alternative to the Iron Dome short-range air defense system.

A shift in Palestinian public opinion, [Times of Israel](#), July 10, 2021

Judging by his most recent surveys, Hamas has supplanted the Palestinian Authority as the defender of the Palestinian cause, while Palestinians are now more likely to call for armed struggle rather than non-violent protests to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank.

Anti-PA rallies put Palestinian leaders on notice, [Al-Jazeera](#), July 13, 2021

Demonstrators demand thorough investigation into the death of critic Nizar Banat, a date for general elections, and recalibrating the PA and the PLO to serve 'popular agendas'.

Israeli PM wants Gaza foreign aid run through vouchers: Minister, [Al-Jazeera](#), July 13, 2021

Israel wants foreign aid to Gaza disbursed through a voucher system as a safeguard against donations being diverted to bolster the Palestinian enclave's Hamas rulers and their arsenal, a government minister said on Tuesday.

Israel to withhold \$180m of Palestinian tax funds, [Middle East Monitor](#), July 12, 2021

Israel will withhold \$180 million in tax transfers to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to offset money transfers going to families of Palestinian prisoners and martyrs, the Israeli cabinet announced yesterday.

International:

'Never been worse': US envoy voices agony over PA's decline in meeting with Israeli officials, [The New Arab](#), July 16, 2021

After meeting PA President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah this week, Deputy Assistant Hady Amr is said to have described never having seen the semi-autonomous government 'in a worse situation'.

Microsoft says Israeli company's malware used to hack dissidents, activists, [Al-Monitor](#), July 16, 2021

Microsoft says it disrupted an Israeli private company's unique malware that hackers in other countries used to spy on political dissidents and rights campaigners.

UAE to open Israel embassy in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, [The New Arab](#), July 12, 2021

The inauguration will take place in the presence of Israeli President Isaac Herzog, according to the "Israel in the Gulf" official Twitter account, which added that the embassy opening will be "another important step in developing relations and cooperation between the two countries".

Israel-UAE pipeline deal 'invitation to disaster' for globally important corals, [Mongabay](#), July 16, 2021

Scientists, environmentalists and politicians are campaigning for a reversal of the decision, citing the environmental track record of the state-run company in charge of the pipeline's operations, fears of ecological damages and economic consequences for coral reef tourism.

Israel Razed a Palestinian Mansion as Collective Punishment, U.S. Intervention Be Damned, [Haaretz](#), July 16, 2021

The IDF blew up the family home of a Palestinian accused of murdering an Israeli. The High Court rejected a petition against the demolition, which argued that the assailant lives in the U.S. Even the intervention of the American secretary of state was to no avail

Biden looks to help get Jordan-Israel ties back on track, [Al-Monitor](#), July 16, 2021

Jordan and Israel, with US backing, are looking to reset bilateral ties after more than a decade of a roller-coaster diplomatic ride that saw relations, under former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reach rock-bottom levels.

Palestinians look to Biden for international points, [Al-Monitor](#), July 13, 2021

Palestinian leaders are hoping for a political breakthrough with the United States to help restore their domestic credibility.

Esteemed African-American professors blasts Harvard University over "superficial diversity" in a resignation letter, [TRT World](#), July 14, 2021

Cornel West, one of the US' foremost Black scholars, has accused Harvard University of "intellectual and spiritual bankruptcy of deep depths" in his bombshell resignation letter.

What if a quarter of Jews really do think Israel is a genocidal, apartheid state?, *Forward*, July 15, 2021

Released Tuesday, the poll appears to be the first time Jews in the United States were asked those questions as part of a formal survey — and the results were shocking to many: 25% agreed that Israel was an apartheid state, while another 22% were unsure. Twenty-two percent agreed that Israel was committing genocide.

Israeli club calls off match with Barcelona over Jerusalem, *Al-Jazeera*, July 15, 2021

Beitar Jerusalem owner Moshe Hogeg says he was forced to cancel the planned August 4 match because he refused to play outside of Jerusalem.

Israel and Turkey Agree to Improve Relations, Spokesman for Erdogan's Party Says, *Haaretz*, July 16, 2021

Spokesman for ruling party says willingness to boost ties comes after call between Turkish and Israeli presidents, but still early to say if envoys will be appointed

Slovakia to open diplomatic mission in Jerusalem in September, *J Post*, July 14, 2021

The Slovakia mission's move is seen as a victory for Israel's campaign for recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Recognise Palestinian statehood, Indonesia tells Non-Aligned Movement countries, *The New Arab*, July 15, 2021

Indonesian foreign affairs minister Retno Marsudi said that every Non-Aligned Movement country 'must recognise the state of Palestine'.

Israel Believes War With Hezbollah Unlikely as Lebanon's Economy Suffers, *Haaretz*, July 14, 2021

But both Israel and Hezbollah are preparing for the possibility of a limited incident that could lead to a wide-scale conflict ■ Israeli army believes that contrary to Gaza fighting, a war in Lebanon would require a ground offensive

Egypt asks Palestine factions for time to pressure Israel over Gaza reconstruction, *Middle East Monitor*, July 14, 2021

Egyptian intelligence officials have intensified their contacts with Palestinian factions in the besieged Gaza Strip over the past few hours asking them for time to pressure Israel to move forward with Gaza reconstruction plans.

Israeli settlements amount to war crime - U.N. rights expert, [Reuters](#), July 09, 2021

Israeli settlements in east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank amount to a war crime, a U.N. human rights investigator said on Friday, calling on countries to inflict a cost on Israel for its "illegal occupation".

Palestinian refugees:

UNRWA Hosts a Virtual Event with the UN Special Envoy on Youth: Voices from Palestine Refugee Youth – Challenges, Aspirations and Opportunities, [UNRWA](#), July 16, 2021

This event included a panel discussion between the UN Special Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, and five young Palestine refugee students and graduates from UNRWA schools and vocational training centers. The event was attended by over 60 people.

WHO fears a fourth COVID-19 wave ‘around the corner’ in the West Bank and Gaza, [Mondoweiss](#), July 16, 2021

the World Health Organization said Thursday it “fears that the fourth wave of COVID-19 is around the corner” for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, reversing the first major decrease in new cases that had occurred over the spring.

UNRWA Commissioner-General visits UNRWA in Damascus and Homs, Syria, [UNRWA](#), July 16, 2021

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini visited Syria from 4-9 July 2021, meeting with Palestine refugees, UNRWA staff and senior government officials.

Palestinian Feminists Are Resisting Colonization by Fighting Sexual Violence, [TruthOut](#), July 15, 2021

Palestinian women hold placards as they gather for a demonstration in support of Palestinian woman prisoners in Israeli jails in front of the International Committee of the Red Cross building in Gaza City, Gaza

Israeli Illustrators Draw on the Horrors of Palestinian Child Detentions, [Haaretz](#), July 15, 2021

‘A nightmare in eight stages’: Parents Against Child Detention worked with Israeli illustrators to depict the stages of detaining Palestinian minors in a bid to make Israelis wake up to the phenomenon

A childhood in Palestine, an education at UMass, [Daily Collegian](#), July 14, 2021

During his commencement day, Jalal Akel’s Palestinian identity took center stage as he joined demonstrators in the West Bank, wearing a stole that read ‘Palestine’ draped over his gown. The environment that Akel found himself in was vastly different than the crowded bleachers and excited cheers that most graduates at the University of Massachusetts were experiencing inside McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Palestinian architects put forward bold plan for Beirut port reconstruction, [The New Arab](#), July 12, 2021

It was awarded to a four-person team from the West Bank for their project "The Aftermath—A Productive Beirut", which reimaged the site as an economically self-sustaining public park and market, open to the city it was once sealed off from.

Publications:

The effect of home-based care on housebound patients and their caregivers in two Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon: a qualitative study, [The Lancet](#), July, 2021

The incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) increases annually by approximately 5% among older (age 50 years and older) Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, of whom around 10% are housebound. Care for housebound patients does not exist in the over-medicalised and highly privatised Lebanese health system or within the health system for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. This has led to a neglected population.

U.S. Aid to Palestine: Historical Development and Recent Strategy, [Borgen Magazine](#), July 12, 2021

Though the conflict between Israel and Palestine is over seven decades old, a peaceful resolution remains elusive today. Over the years, U.S. aid to Palestine has fluctuated depending upon the presidential administration and the nature of tumult in the region.



Events:

Settler Colonialism: A Reproductive Justice Issue, *SisterSong's Youth Organizing Council*, July 21, 2021

Two members of SisterSong's Youth Organizing Council, Noor and Malia, will lead a discussion on the history of settler colonialism both in Palestine and the US. Noor is a Palestinian person and Malia is Indigenous to the US. They detail the reproductive oppression that colonialists use in the process of colonization and how the continued colonialism in the form of settler colonialism is an ongoing Reproductive Justice issue.

Liberation for Palestine: Collective Action and Solidarity, *The Caucus*, July 28, 2021

Palestinian human rights researcher and analyst Dalya Al Masri, and social justice activist Sid Shnaid for a discussion on taking action to liberate Palestine. This will be a webinar-format discussion, with a Q&A portion at the end.