



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

“Palestine in News”

GNQP Media Round-up

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

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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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Top Stories:

Israel granted official observer status at the African Union, Al-Jazeera, July 23, 2021

Israeli ambassador presents credentials to Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairman of the African Union Commission, at bloc's headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Ben & Jerry's to stop selling ice cream in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, The Week, July 19, 2021

Ben & Jerry's announced it will stop selling its ice cream in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and contested East Jerusalem, saying it is "inconsistent with our values."

Israeli PM: Ben & Jerry's sales ban will have 'serious consequences', The Guardian, July 20, 2021

Bennett's office issued a statement on Tuesday in which it said the prime minister had spoken to Unilever's chief executive, Alan Jope, about what he called a "clearly anti-Israel step", adding that the move would have "serious consequences, legal and otherwise, and that [Israel] will act aggressively against all boycott actions directed against its citizens".

Ex-rights chief to lead UN Israel-Palestinian inquiry, The News, July 24, 2021

Former UN rights chief Navi Pillay will lead the United Nations' open-ended inquiry into "systematic" abuses in Israel and the Palestinian territories

Israel is supercharging digital authoritarianism in the Middle East with Pegasus, The New Arab, July 23, 2021

"Israel and its illegal occupation benefit from selling the 'toy that everyone wants' to governments that broadly support its vision for the region"

Hate Speech on Israeli Social Media Grew 9 Percent in Past Year, Report Shows, Haaretz, July 18, 2021

Main targets were Arabs, followed by the ultra-Orthodox, Hate Index Report says after counting 5.2 million comments that were offensive or called for violence

How Washington power brokers gained from NSO's spyware ambitions, [Washington Post](#), July 19, 2021

The Israeli surveillance giant NSO Group and companies linked to it or its founders have spent millions of dollars in hopes of wooing their way into the U.S. market, hosting demonstrations for government intelligence officials and hiring Washington's most prominent names despite pledges that its phone-hacking tool can't be used inside the United States.

Israeli settlers attack Palestinian vehicles with stones, injuries reported, [Wafa](#), July 21, 2021

A Palestinian and his son were injured today after being attacked with stones by Israeli settlers near the village of Turmus Ayya, northeast of Ramallah, according to a local activist.

A Palestinian Activist Fights the IDF and the Palestinian Authority, [Tablet](#), July 20, 2021

When Issa Amro was invited to an intimate meeting with Antony Blinken in Ramallah in May, he decided to aim straight for the heart. "As a Jew, is this your dream?" Amro rhetorically asked him. "Did you dream of seeing an apartheid state?"

Why Is This Happening? Understanding life inside Palestine with Rashid Khalidi, [MSNBC](#), July 20, 2021

What happens when the bombing stops? The unfortunate reality of American news coverage of Israel and Palestine is that it centers almost entirely on times of extreme violence, broadcasting dramatic images of explosions and destruction. But as soon as some sort of ceasefire is reached, any future coverage of the area instead turns to the state of Israeli politics.

Enlightened Israelis must admit Israel is guilty as charged, [Al-Jazeera](#), July 20, 2021

The proof of Israel's cruel lawlessness can no longer be dismissed or ignored by enlightened Israelis. They now need to make a seminal choice: remain silent and unmoved at the appalling indignities, loss and suffering Palestinians have been forced to brave, or reshape the future by saying "stop, not in my name."

What's Next for Christian Zionists?, [Foreign Policy](#), July 19, 2021

"People have to understand that the backbone of Israel's support in the United States is the evangelical Christians," Dermer said. "About 25 percent [of Americans] ... are evangelical

Christians. Less than 2 percent of Americans are Jews. So if you look just at numbers, you should be spending a lot more time doing outreach to evangelical Christians than you would do to Jews.”

Latest Developments:

New report details Israeli military complicity in settler violence in the West Bank, *The New Arab*, July 24, 2021

A new report from Breaking the Silence has compiled the testimonies of former Israeli soldiers, documenting the ways protection for settlers was given.

Israeli forces release Palestinian woman's body after withholding for over 40 days, *The New Arab*, July 24, 2021

Israel released the body of Ibtisam Kaabneh, a Palestinian woman who was shot and killed by occupying forces, after withholding it for more than 40 days.

Why Did Netanyahu Vote Against A Racist Law He Wholly Embraces? – OpEd, *Eurasia Review*, July 24, 2021

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu – who is furious for being ousted from power after serving 12 years as prime minister and is afraid of going to jail on corruption charges – instructed all of the members of the opposition to vote against a law that they, themselves, have vehemently supported since it was first introduced. Here it is why.

How Bennett Found Himself Trying to Save the Palestinian Economy, *Haaretz*, July 23, 2021

Somewhat surprising indirect contacts have been underway in recent weeks between Israel, the United States and the Palestinian Authority. The PA’s desperate economic situation is worrying the Americans and the Israelis. The PA’s revenues from taxes and foreign aid are declining, its deficit is increasing rapidly and even the Palestinian banks are leery about lending it more money.

Israeli govt ‘melts down’ after Ice Cream Company divests, *Liberation*, July 22, 2021

The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement won a partial victory against Israeli settler-colonialism when Ben & Jerry’s announced July 19 it would no longer sell ice cream in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Air warms between Israel, Palestinian Authority with rare phone calls, [Al-Monitor](#), July 22, 2021

The phone calls from President Isaac Herzog and Defense Minister Benny Gantz to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas indicate a change of approach by Israel's new government.

Government plan aims to boost permits for Palestinian construction workers, [The Times of Israel](#), July 22, 2021

The government will vote on Sunday on a proposal to give permits to an additional 15,000 Palestinian construction workers from the West Bank seeking employment in Israel, Regional Cooperation Minister Issawi Frej says in a statement.

Palestinians hold Israel responsible after father-of-four dies in detention, [The New Arab](#), July 22, 2021

The family of a Palestinian man who died in Israeli detention on Wednesday, after being arrested for a traffic violation in Jerusalem, claim he was beaten and tortured by prison guards.

Israel's Drone Diplomacy Tries to Offset Heavy Loses in Ice Cream War, [Haaretz](#), July 22, 2021

At the end of a week in which Ben & Jerry's sent Israeli politicians into meltdown, a joint exercise with five Western air forces, has injected some perspective on the multiple levels of Israel's standing in the world

How gender inequality in the Palestinian Security Services violates basic law, [Al-Jazeera](#), July 21, 2021

Female members of the Palestinian Security Services (PSS) endure unequal treatment in comparison with their male colleagues when it comes to social security, health insurance, promotions, social allowance, holidays, scholarships, courses abroad and accessing decision-making positions.

Israel turns Silwan into closed military site, [Al-Monitor](#), July 20, 2021

Israeli authorities have been demolishing homes for weeks in the area to make way for a biblical theme park, known as the "City of David." Palestinians say the demolitions are aimed at driving them from Jerusalem in an attempt to further "Judaize" the city. Israeli authorities, for their part, claim the homes have been illegally built. Yet Palestinians note that receiving building permits in the area is nearly impossible.

International:

Israel's AU observer status paves way for normalization with African states, Al-Monitor, July 23, 2021

Now that Israel is joining the African Union as an observer state, African countries hesitant to normalize ties with it could come around.

Ben & Jerry's parent firm Unilever 'firmly committed to Israel', CEO says, The New Arab, July 23, 2021

Ben & Jerry's had been trying for years to withdraw its products from the occupied Palestinian territories but was reportedly prevented by parent company Unilever.

Ben & Jerry's Tests Anti-BDS Laws, Jewish Currents, July 23, 2021

Are these laws likely to be enforced against Ben & Jerry's and Unilever—and does the US Constitution permit that? Will these efforts force Ben & Jerry's to reverse course, or could they inadvertently bring down the legislative apparatus penalizing the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement? And what are the implications for future attempts to push companies to cease doing business in the occupied territories—let alone in Israel's pre-1967 borders?

The Order Expired, but Israel Still Refuses to Process Palestinian Requests for Family Unification, Haaretz, July 22, 2021

Palestinian families who have made requests to the Israeli Population and Immigration Authority have been told that they cannot 'make new appointments'

The Takeaway: Biden-Abdullah White House summit key to Israel-Jordan reset, Al-Monitor, July 21, 2021

Jordan-Israel ties had hit rock bottom under Netanyahu; Also: Will Zarif pick up Raisi's road map on the Iran deal? Israel prepares Raisi file; Egypt, Ethiopia compete for power partnerships; Saudi-Ethiopian ties strained by Nile dam dispute; Russia's vaccine diplomacy stumbles; the latest 'Pharaonic parade'.

UAE likely partner in Israel's moon mission, [Al-Monitor](#), July 21, 2021

Evidence that the UAE is involved in the project can be found in a statement by the Emirates committing itself to investing \$10 billion in Israel as of March. The announcement by the UAE government said one particular area of investment will be space exploration.

Scoop: U.S. won't reopen consulate in Jerusalem until Bennett passes budget, [AXIOS](#), July 21, 2021

The decision shows how invested the Biden administration is in helping to stabilize the new Israeli government. The Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry had requested the delay.

Palestinian refugees:

United States announces additional support for Palestine refugees, [UNRWA](#), July 17, 2021

The United States announced that it is contributing an additional US\$135.8 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

UNRWA official says partnership with U.S. fully restored, [Xinhua Net](#), July 19, 2021

The partnership between the United States and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is fully restored, a senior UNRWA official said.

In case of emergencies, put the mask on yourself first: Psychosocial training for teachers in Gaza, [UNRWA](#), July 24, 2021

The Gaza Field Office Education Programme-led initiative provided launched the large-scale peer support sessions to all education programme staff, with a specific focus on teachers. Almost 10,000 UNRWA teachers were given the chance to participate in at least one session of psychosocial support, led by 254 school counselors.

'They had no mercy': Palestinian remembers moment he was made a refugee in 1948, [Doha News](#), July 24, 2021

"We were kids playing near sand dunes and people started running away because Israeli Jews started making their way to the families' neighbourhoods. Everyone ran away but I stayed, because I could not comprehend what was happening," he explained.

Palestinian women sell homemade Eid cakes to help support families, [Xinhua Net](#), July, 20, 2021

Flipping some dough in a bowl, Um Yusef told Xinhua that the Eid al-Adha festival represents "a lifeline and a good source of income," noting that customers prefer to send orders hours before the festival in order to offer fresh cakes to their guests.

Meet refugee "No. 43" The story of Palestine refugees in Wadi al-Hussein, [UNRWA](#), July 17, 2021

"My name is Husni Abd al-Hai Matariyyeh Abu S'eifan - number 43." This is how Husni, known as Abu al-Abed, introduced himself to the visiting UNRWA delegation as he welcomed us into his home, which is located in the neighborhood of Wadi al-Hussein, in the area known as H2, in the southern West Bank city of Hebron

Events:

Palestine Fourm: Human Rights, Censorship, & International Law, [Coalition of Canadian Palestinian Organizations](#), July 29, 2021

Speakers:

- Ambassador Hala Abou Hassira
- Dr. Michael Lynk
- Dr. Mark Ayyash
- MP Matthew Green
- Beisan Zubi

Palestinian Liberation & Leadership: What's Next?, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#), July 28, 2021

The discussion will address issues including: What are the challenges to Palestinian liberation? What roles - positive and negative - do the Palestinian Authority and Hamas play? What role does Palestinian civil society play in mobilizing against Israel and the PA? What can Palestinian resistance to Israel look like? What is behind Hamas's rise in popularity since the most recent escalation with Israel? What is the status of the uprising against the PA and how is it part of a larger struggle against occupation, annexation, and apartheid? And how do Palestinians inside of Israel and in the Diaspora - from Lebanon to the U.S. - fit into the puzzle of Palestinian liberation?

Speakers:



- **Tareq Baconi:** Crisis Group's Senior Analyst for Israel/Palestine and Economics of Conflict.
- **Inès Abdel Razek:** Advocacy Director for the Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy (PIPD), an independent Palestinian organization, and a member of Al Shabaka.

Canada, Settler Colonialism and Palestine, Peace Alliance Winnipeg, August 14, 2021

- **Hanna Kawas** discusses Canada's complicity in Palestinian dispossession and how it enables settler colonialism at home and abroad.