



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 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:**

### **We got Ben & Jerry's to stop selling in Israeli settlements. Here's how we did it, [The Guardian](#), August 05, 2021**

I spent the last decade organizing with fellow activists in Vermont to convince Ben & Jerry's to end its business in Israel's settlements. The company's statement, therefore, was a welcome step towards a more just world.

### **'We'll scream our pain': Gaza's first rock band, Osprey V, takes wing, [Reuters](#), August 05, 2021**

An accountant, two lawyers, an agronomist and a Swiss humanitarian worker have formed Gaza's first rock band, giving voice in English to the pain of war in the Palestinian territory.

### **Israel undercuts Palestinian agriculture with cheap produce, [Al-Monitor](#), August 03, 2021**

Israel is flooding Palestinian markets with large quantities of agricultural products with the aim to ruin the Palestinian agricultural seasons.

### **The Israeli legal system: No place for justice, [Al-Jazeera](#), August 05, 2021**

When Palestinians go to Israeli courts, it is not in recognition of their legitimacy or with expectations of justice. Rather, for them, it is just a tactic in a toolbox of many tactics. It is used in the hope that popular struggle and international pressure will prevail and lead to the Israeli regime being held accountable for its continuous crimes against the Palestinian people.

### **Explained: The Israeli court verdict on Sheikh Jarrah, and why Palestinians are unhappy about it, [The Indian Express](#), August 05, 2021**

According to a report in The Guardian, many would-be settlers cite an Israeli law that allows Jews to reclaim ownership of property lost before 1948. The Sheikh Jarrah case is incendiary for many Palestinians as they have no equivalent legal means to reclaim property that went on to become parts of Israel at the same time.

### **The PA was always meant to 'kill' the Palestinian cause, [Al-Jazeera](#), August 06, 2021**

A paradigm shift can only take place if a new leadership is able to repurpose the PA – with the political and financial support of the donor community – as an institution that operates in tandem with the Palestinian national movement.

## **Latest Developments:**

### **Hezbollah fires rockets at Israel for first time since 2006 war, AXIOS, August 06, 2021**

Hezbollah on Friday fired 19 rockets from southern Lebanon toward Israeli military outposts on the border between the two countries. Most were intercepted by the Iron Dome system and there were no casualties, according to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

### **Haniyeh elected to another term as chief of Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, France 24, Aug 08, 2021**

Ismail Haniyeh has been re-elected as leader of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, officials said on Sunday, cementing his control of the organization which rules the Gaza Strip and has fought multiple violent conflicts with Israel.

### **False Rumors About Mahmoud Abbas' Health Reveal Disturbing Truth, Haaretz, Aug 02, 2021**

Despite being 85, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has made no efforts to draw up a succession plan – and the new governments in Jerusalem and D.C. should be concerned

### **WATCH: Settler grabs Israeli soldier's weapon, fires at Palestinians, 972 Mag, Aug 02, 2021**

On June 26, during a settler attack on the village of a-Tuwani in the South Hebron Hills, a Jewish Israeli settler grabbed a weapon from an Israeli soldier and fired it at Palestinians. Local activists documented the incident on video, which was distributed by Israeli anti-occupation group B'Tselem.

### **Beshara Doumani Appointed President of Birzeit University, Institute of Palestine Studies, August 05, 2021**

Doumani is a specialist in Palestinian and Middle East history. He is currently Mahmoud Darwish Professor of Palestinian Studies at Brown University in the US. He worked previously as a lecturer in Birzeit University, as an Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and professor of

history at the University of California, Berkeley. He earned his PhD in history at Georgetown University.

### **Hundreds of Asylum Seekers in Tel Aviv File Petition Against School Segregation, [Haaretz](#), August 04, 2021**

91.5 percent of the children of asylum seekers in Tel Aviv study in schools without a single Israeli child

### **Israeli defence budget moves forward with government agreement, [Janes](#), August 04, 2021**

Israel's ministries of defence and finance reached an agreement together with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on a new annual defence budget for 2022, worth ILS58 billion (USD17.95 billion) net, the bureau of Defence Minister Benny Gantz announced on 28 July.

### **Industrial Production Index in Palestine up by more than 10 percent during June, [Wafa News](#), August 05, 2021**

The rise was due to increase in the activities of Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation by 31.68%, which had a share of 1.84% of the total industry.

### **Soldiers Abduct A Palestinian During His Engagement Party, [International Middle East Media Center](#), August 06, 2021**

Israeli soldiers abducted, on Thursday evening, a young Palestinian man, who is also a former political prisoner, during his engagement party in the al-Isawiya town, in occupied Jerusalem.

## **International:**

### **Algeria forms African Union bloc seeking to remove Israel's 'observer' status, [The New Arab](#), Aug 02, 2021**

Algeria is joined by 13 other members of the pan-African body in forming a bloc aimed at opposing Israel's position in the AU and have its newly acquired observer status removed.

### **Israel asks US to push Palestinians to accept Sheikh Jarrah 'compromise', [The New Arab](#), August 05, 2021**

Another Israeli diplomat told Haaretz that the US is reluctant to interfere in the case as they believe the judiciary is "independent" and wouldn't be swayed by Washington's pressure.

**USAID to resume work in occupied Palestinian territories, *Middle East Monitor*, August 05, 2021**

Director of the Palestinian Water Authority, Mazen Ghoneim, spoke to Dana Mansouri, director of the USAID office in Palestine, in Ramallah yesterday. The authority later reported: "USAID will resume all of its activities in Palestine and will work in this direction to provide support to vital and humanitarian projects, as an urgent necessity."

**Israeli foreign minister to visit Morocco next week, *Arab News*, August 06, 2021**

A source at Morocco's foreign ministry told AFP that Lapid would visit on August 11-12 and meet with his counterpart, without providing further details.

**Palestinian refugees:**

**Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center calls on Canada to suspend its funding to UNRWA, *Times of Israel*, August 04, 2021**

The call follows the UN Watch report which revealed that UNRWA staff promoted anti-Semitism and violence.

**UNRWA to probe 10 staff for anti-Israel speech, *J Post*, August 08, 2021**

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) pledged to investigate 10 of its staff members for anti-Israel hate speech following a report by the Geneva-based NGO UN Watch that highlighted such activity.

**Under-five malnutrition among Palestine refugee children living in camps in Jordan: a mixed-methods study, *BMJ Global Health*, August, 2021**

Out of the 367 participants, the prevalence of stunting was 23.8% in Jerash and 20.4% in Souf ( $p=0.46$ ), and overweight was 18.2% versus 7.1%, respectively ( $p=0.008$ ). However, high food insecurity in Jerash was 45.7% and 26.5% in Souf ( $p=0.001$ ), with no significant difference after multivariable adjustment. Qualitative perspectives saw food insecurity and low-quality children's diets as largely mediated by job and income insecurity, especially marked in Jerash due to the lack of Jordanian citizenship.

**Israel: Jewish National Fund set to approve plan that could lead to Palestinian expulsions, *Middle East Eye*, August 05, 2021**

The plan will be worth \$31m, take five years to implement and covers properties purchased by the fund before and after 1948. But records of purchase for these properties are only found in the JNF's documentation and were never registered with the government.

**Germany detains Syrian man accused of Yarmouk grenade attack, [\*Al-Monitor\*](#), August 04, 2021**

Three others, including a six-year-old child, were injured when German prosecutors say the suspect launched a grenade into a crowd of Palestinian refugees who were lining up to receive UN-distributed food packages in Yarmouk on the outskirts of Damascus.

**Publications:**

**Digital Orientalism: #SaveSheikhJarrah and Arabic Content Moderation, [\*Pomed\*](#), August 04, 2021**

We contextualised the new digital orientalism of platform governance within the previous media theory framework of orientalism that Edward Said conceived. This theory of media orientalism has underpinned much of the Islamophobic media tropes that pervade Western society,

**Under Scrutiny: Allegations of Use of Human Shields by Palestinian Armed Groups and the International Criminal Court Investigation, [\*Law4Palestine\*](#), August 05, 2021**

This paper will address the issue of the use of human shields in accordance with the laws of war and the other relevant laws on Palestine before the ICC. The paper also seeks to highlight the legal characterization of this crime under both International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Criminal Law (ICL). Moreover, it addresses the alleged use of human shields by the PAGs, analyzes their legal responsibility, and examines the impact of this characterization on Israel's attempt to evade responsibility for carrying out indiscriminate attacks.

**Events:**

**Virtual Conference | The Jerusalem Uprising: Implications and Consequences, [\*Institute for Palestine Studies\*](#), August 23, 2021**

This conference seeks to analyze the implications and consequences of the Jerusalem uprising and to diagnose the options available to build on its results, both regionally and internationally. This conference will also shed light on what is happening on the ground in Jerusalem, including the ongoing Israeli policies of "Judaization" of the neighborhoods and holy places of Jerusalem.



**The digital refugee economy: an opportunity to leapfrog towards prosperity?,  
*UCL Institute for Global Prosperity, Oct 14, 2021***

Dr Andreas Hackl is Lecturer in Anthropology of Development at the School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh. Previously, the focus of his research was on dynamics of labour mobility and urban inclusion among Palestinians in Israel. The conditional inclusion of Palestinians in Tel Aviv, and a forthcoming monograph with Indiana University Press (The Invisible Palestinians: The Hidden Struggle for Inclusion in Jewish Tel Aviv).