



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:

Israeli Army Chief Warns Soldiers Against 'Recklessness' After 40 Palestinians Killed Since May, [*Haaretz*](#), August 12, 2021

Aviv Kochavi says the IDF will crack down on soldiers who don't follow regulations after 40 Palestinians were killed by IDF fire in the West Bank since May 2021.

International Crisis Group calls for inclusion of Hamas in Palestinian politics, [*Middle East Eye*](#), August 11, 2021

Foreign powers should revise the conditions that have prevented the Palestinian group Hamas from participating in a unity government, the International Crisis Group (ICG) and the US/Middle East Project (USMEP) said in a report on Tuesday.

At Risk in Israel's Backlash Against Ben and Jerry's? The Right to Protest, [*The Nation*](#), August 11, 2021

Israel's push to punish the ice cream company is part of a larger offensive against Palestine activists—one that mirrors the broader right-wing assault on social justice movements.

Palestine faces financial crisis amid decline in foreign aid, tax dispute, [*Business Standard*](#), August 10, 2021

The Palestinian government, which used to pay its employees before the fifth of every month, is still unable to pay the salaries for July, the source told Xinhua news agency on Monday, adding "the government's financial situation is so difficult".

Israel's coalition government holds to center, [*AL-Monitor*](#), August 13, 2021

"To the outside world, Bennett and Lapid are the picture of an idyllic relationship," writes Mazal Mualem. "Beneath the surface, however, things are hardly perfect. Upon closer inspection, it is impossible to ignore the growing cracks in this alliance. Last week, for instance, it was revealed in the press that Lapid does not participate in meetings of the coronavirus cabinet, a surprising development considering that this cabinet was formed to address a mounting national crisis."

Latest Developments:

Palestinian Authority receives another 150,000 coronavirus vaccine doses, [*Times of Israel*](#), August, 13 2021

The Palestinian Authority has received another 150,000 doses of vaccine from Pfizer, PA Health Minister Mai al-Kaila said in a statement on Thursday, as most Palestinians remain unvaccinated. Around 100,000 of the doses have been allocated to the Gaza Strip, Hamas health official Majdi Daher confirmed in a phone call.

Gaza resort attacked for holding mixed-gender concert, [Al-Monitor](#), August 12, 2021

A group of masked men bombed a tourist resort in the Gaza Strip for holding a concert for both men and women, which raises questions on whether fundamentalists are once again gaining the upper hand in the coastal enclave.

'How will we flee?': Israeli assaults leave Gaza's disabled more vulnerable and scared, [The New Arab](#), August 11, 2021

Israel's violent and repeated attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip have caused thousands of deaths, unspeakable destruction and long-lasting trauma. However, for those with disabilities, the difficulties faced are even more severe.

IOF Kill Palestinian Civilian and Wound Journalist and Child in Nablus, [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#), August 06, 2021

According to PCHR investigations, the victim was not involved in the ongoing clashes, as he was standing by an olive tree at least 150 meters from the area. Additionally, there were no threats to the lives of IOF soldiers during the protest, eliminating any justification to the murder crime. This crime is yet another stark example of IOF unjustifiable relaxed shooting standards in disregard for Palestinian civilians' lives.

Arrests of Palestinian rights defenders part of 'wider crackdown', [United Nations](#), August 11, 2021

"Arrests and raids on the homes of Palestinian human right defenders form part of a wider crackdown against those defending the human rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders said.

Palestinian journalists claim pressure by PA amid crackdown, [Al-Jazeera](#), August 11, 2021

Palestinian journalists in the occupied West Bank are facing increased harassment, arrests and violence from the Palestinian Authority since the death of activist Nizar Banat in PA custody, according to reporters and media rights groups.

Israel Police Solved 71 Percent of Murders in Jewish Community, but Only 23 Percent for Arabs, [Haaretz](#), August 08, 2021

The Israeli government budgeted over \$310 million to fight crime in the Arab community, but national officials admit they're failing.

International:

Ahead of CIA Meeting, Palestinians Call on U.S. to Stop Settlement Expansion Plan, *Haaretz*, August 12, 2021

The Palestinian Authority called on the United States on Thursday to stop Israeli plans for over 2,000 new settlement homes in the West Bank, even as the director of the CIA was heading to Ramallah to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Israel asking US to push Palestinians toward compromise on Sheikh Jarrah, *Times of Israel*, August 10, 2021

Israel has asked the Biden administration to ‘encourage’ several Palestinian families facing Israeli eviction from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah to accept a compromise proposed by the Supreme Court that would allow them to stay put for the foreseeable future, an Israeli official told The Times of Israel.

AIPAC doubles down on ad about US Rep. Omar, *Al-Monitor*, August 13, 2021

The issue centers around an ad by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) about Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who is a frequent critic of Israel. The ad showed Omar’s image and read “Stand WITH America. Stand AGAINST terrorists.” It also accused Omar of equating the United States with the Taliban and Israel with Hamas.

US Congresswoman Marie Newman: ‘The Israeli Government is Trampling on Palestinian Rights’, *Palestine Chronicle*, August 12, 2021

United States Congresswoman Marie Newman has described Israel’s forceful expulsion of Palestinian families in occupied Jerusalem as despicable, calling for an immediate end to this policy. “Despicable. Palestinian families are being ripped from their homes in the neighborhood of Silwan [in occupied Jerusalem], Newman said in a tweet.

Israel and Morocco agree to full diplomatic normalization, *AXIOS*, August 12, 2021

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said in a press conference on Thursday that Israel and Morocco will move toward full diplomatic normalization by upgrading their diplomatic liaison offices in Tel Aviv and Rabat to full embassies within two months.

Saudi Arabia: new Jordanian and Palestinian prison sentences amid reports of torture, *Middle East Monitor*, August 12, 2021

The Saudi Arabian Prisoners of Conscience group has reported that the Kingdom's judiciary has sentenced a number of Jordanians and Palestinians to lengthy terms in prison. Some of them, it is alleged, have been tortured.

Canadian Relief Agency Refused Emergency Medical Support Donation for Palestine, [Truth Out](#), August 13, 2021

Last June, with the spectre of a COVID catastrophe looming over Palestinians, Canada's largest private relief agency refused a \$165,000 donation for emergency medical support in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Covid-19 spike sees Israel added to US' 'very high risk' list, [The New Arab](#), August 10, 2021

The CDC on Monday updated its "Level 4: Very High" Covid-19 list with Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory added to the list. The CDC recommends that US travellers avoid visiting the area due to the dangers of the disease and to ensure they are fully vaccinated if they need to go.

Israel's Mossad seeks crypto and fintech experts, [Yahoo](#), August 09, 2021

According to the announcement, the ideal candidate should have "in-depth technological understanding and expertise in the world of fintech, e-commerce, DEF and digital currencies".

UAE-Israeli business deals could mount to \$1 billion by end of 2021, [The New Arab](#), August 09, 2021

Business deals between Israel and the UAE could amount to \$1 billion by the end of 2021 as the current level of trade stands at \$570 million, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

Palestinian refugees:

One year after the Beirut blast, life in a Lebanese refugee camp is marked by despair – but also hope, [The Independent](#), August 12, 2021

Against all odds, people living in the Burj Barajneh camp continue to strive and survive. But for how much longer?

The Fall of Tal al-Za'atar Camp, [Institute of Palestine Studies](#), August 12, 2021

The Tal al-Za'atar camp for Palestinian refugees was established in 1949 on a one square-kilometer Maronite endowment land in the east Beirut canton. During the Lebanese civil war, the camp witnessed a momentous massacre. More than 2,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, were killed after forces affiliated with the Kataeb (Phalange) Party and its allies imposed a draconian siege on the camp that lasted for several weeks. The siege ended on August 12, 1976, when the camp fell, and the forces entered it.

oPt: UNRWA reiterates the inviolability of its installations must be respected at all times, [UNRWA](#), August 11, 2021

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reiterates that its installations are inviolable at all times, as it conducts follow-up risks assessment, through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), related to Israeli airstrikes between 13 and 15 May 2021 that damaged several of its premises.

UNRWA launches probe into 10 staffers amid allegations of antisemitism, *The Times of Israel*, August 08, 2021

UN agency for Palestinian refugees says group making accusations has history of slandering UNRWA, but admits some staffers' comments may have violated its code of conduct

Italy approves 1,000 refugees from Lebanon over two years, *Arab News*, August 09, 2021

One thousand refugees from Lebanon will be granted access to Italy over the next two years through humanitarian corridors thanks to a new protocol signed by the Italian government, Catholic NGO the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Italian Evangelical Churches and the Waldensian Table of Italy.

Publications:

Beyond Business as Usual in Israel-Palestine, *Crisis Group*, August 10, 2021

International stakeholders should pursue a long-term truce in Gaza; call on Israel to halt evictions of East Jerusalem Palestinians; encourage respect for existing arrangements at Jerusalem holy sites; and support Palestinians in renewing their political leadership – all as part of opening a path toward a rights-based approach to solving the conflict.

On the occasion of the International Youth Day, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) issues a press release demonstrating the situation of youth in the Palestinian society, *PCBS*, August 11, 2021

50% was the percentage of the youth (18-29 years) who are not in employment /education or training in 2019 (41% in the West Bank compared with 64% in Gaza strip). The percentage by sex was 33% for males and 68% for females.

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.

- **Day 1: August 23**

Session One (6pm – 9pm Jerusalem | 11am-2pm ET) International and Regional Dimensions

- **Day 2: August 24**

Session Two (5pm-6.30pm Jerusalem | 10am-11:30am ET) The Multiplicity of the Uprising's Spaces

Session Three (6.30pm-9.00pm Jerusalem | 11:30am-2:00pm ET) Roundtable Discussion: The strategic options to redress the balance of power and reestablish the centrality of the Palestinian cause

After Dinner Conversations About Peace and Justice, *Richmond Peace Education Center*, August 18, 2021

Adeeb Abed and Nancy Wein on their personal journeys as advocates for justice for Palestine

Nancy Litvin Wein is a longtime member of the Richmond Jewish Community and one of the co-founders of Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine.

Adeeb is a member of the Palestinian Aid Society, the East Coast Regional Director of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee, a founder of the Arab American Association of Central Virginia, and an early member of Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine.