



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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Latest Developments:

PA Court Sentences Nizar Banat's Brother to Two Years in Prison, [Palestine Chronicle](#), August 26, 2021

The Palestinian Authority (PA)'s Corruption Crimes Court sentenced Ghassan Banat, brother of murdered activist Nizar Banat, to two years in prison in absentia after accusing him of corruption, ordering him to repay 6,900 shekels (\$2,143), Safa news agency reported yesterday.

Palestinian cabinet reshuffle on hold, [Al-Monitor](#), August 25, 2021

The Palestinian leadership appears to have backtracked at the last moment from its planned cabinet reshuffling after news leaked that the changes were superficial at best.

You've Got Fake Mail: Pro-Palestinian Hackers Behind Massive Phishing Campaign Targeting Israelis Expecting Packages, [Haaretz](#), August 25, 2021

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis received messages from the Post Office to pick up their package. However, investigators say it was a scam by political hackers from Gaza and London

Gazan shares realities of poverty via TikTok, [Al-Monitor](#), August 25, 2021

A young man from Gaza is using social media to shed light on the poverty and difficult living conditions of many residents in the besieged enclave amid the lack of action from Palestinian authorities.

Bennett: Israel won't annex territory or establish Palestinian state on my watch, [Times of Israel](#), August 25, 2021

Ahead of his first meeting as prime minister with US President Joe Biden, Naftali Bennett said he would neither annex West Bank territory nor allow it to become a Palestinian state.

Jewish Agency Invites Staff to Radical West Bank Settlement for Holiday Trip, [Haaretz](#), August 24, 2021

Workers were invited to attend a Rosh Hashana trip in Hebron, where hundreds of Israeli settlers live among more than 200,000 Palestinians. The Agency's deputy chairman says he was not consulted.

Palestinian Authority losing control of West Bank, say insiders and activists, [Middle East Eye](#), August 26, 2021

“The PA’s fragility has been front and centre for months, say insiders and observers, starting in April with President Mahmoud Abbas’s postponement of parliamentary elections, and then in May as the PA was largely sidelined when Israel bombarded Gaza....The arrests last weekend, say activists and the PA insider, are only the latest sign of the PA’s weakened hand, which they say has left them wondering whether it is losing control of the West Bank.”

UN, Palestine team remove unexploded Israel bomb from Gaza building, Middle East Monitor, August 27, 2021

“The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) yesterday extracted an American-made Israeli missile that was dropped on a five-story apartment building during the occupation state’s latest war on Gaza in May. The ordnance had not exploded.

'Blood for Blood': On Jenin and Israel’s Fear of an Armed Palestinian Rebellion, Common Dreams, August 25, 2021

The killing of four young Palestinians by Israeli occupation soldiers in the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank, on August 16, is a consequential event, the repercussions of which are sure to be felt in the coming weeks and months. It turns out that Jenin never waved the white flag, after all, and that the battle which began in 2002—in fact in 1948—was never truly finished.

For Hamas, May's War With Israel Never Ended, Haaretz, August 26, 2021

Criticism over the wounding of an Israeli officer led to a tighter deployment at the Gaza fence, but Hamas is still striving to get all its Qatari money and the border crossings opened

Want to report settler violence? You may soon be under investigation, 972 Magazine, August 19, 2021

Palestinians and activists in the West Bank who file complaints of settler violence are finding themselves the targets of police interrogations.

The Middle East Is Draining Its Water Supply, The Nation, August 25, 2021

Today, Israelis drain more than 80 percent of the West Bank’s aquifers, and their diversion of Galilee and the Jordan River’s waters has resulted in shrinking that historic river to 5 percent of its original volume. To add insult to injury, Palestinians and Jordanians are now forced to buy water from Israel at inflated prices.

Will an ICC probe into Israeli war crimes finally bring justice to Palestinians?, The New Arab, August 24, 2021

While legal proceedings may be long and political obstacles remain, an ICC probe could nonetheless represent a step towards justice for Palestinians.

77 Israeli Arabs Were Murdered This Year. Police Insist They Haven't Lost Control, Haaretz, August 29, 2021

The head of the new police department dedicated specifically to crime in the Arab community says it should have the powers that the Shin Bet security agency has, such as detaining suspects without trial, in order to curb the rampant violence.

International:

US Military Aid to Israel with Nadya Tannous, Rethinking Palestine, Al-Shabaka, August 27, 2021

Nadya Tannous joins host Yara Hawari to discuss US military aid to Israel and its vital role in sustaining the colonial project in Palestine as well as in shaping US's imperial and capitalist interests in the Middle East.

It's Time to Reassess Our Relationship With Israel, Institute for Policy Studies, August 25, 2021

President Biden has time and time again stated that "America is back." But if Biden actually wants to put human rights and the "rules-based order" back in U.S. foreign policy, then we can't just "go back" to the same old playbook of supporting Israeli governments no matter what they do.

Poll: 50% of Americans think military aid to Israel should be restricted, Mondoweiss, August 27, 2021

New polling from the 2021 Chicago Council Survey found that 50% of Americans want the U.S. to restrict military aid to Israel. The survey also shows that a majority of Democrats want it restricted.

Progressive Democrats slam Palestinian Authority over crackdown on protesters, Middle East Eye, August 25, 2021

Several progressive US Democrats have accused the Palestinian Authority (PA) of human rights violations following the arrests of dozens of demonstrators over the weekend. The PA has been facing large protests since Banat's death. Dozens of Palestinian activists have been arrested,

beaten or otherwise injured while participating in demonstrations, while others have been detained for criticising the PA on social media.

Why Israel's Best Friend in Congress Doesn't Think His Party Has an 'Israel Problem', [Haaretz](#), August 26, 2021

“With Prime Minister Naftali Bennett presenting his case of “shrinking the conflict” with the Palestinians to the Biden administration, Deutch gave a ringing endorsement to the philosophy of empowering Palestinians through economic means...“When [Bennett] talks about shrinking the conflict, if we’re able to support Israel in taking meaningful steps to help and increase the opportunities for Palestinians, of course we ought to be supportive of those efforts,” he adds.”

3-way summit in Cairo to discuss Palestine issue, [Daiji World](#), August 27, 2021

Azzam al-Ahmad, member of the executive committee of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), told reporters that leaders of Palestine, Jordan and Egypt will hold thr three-way summit meeting to discuss the current situation, reports Xinhua news agency.

Palestinian refugees:

Displaced people cannot afford rent in Syria’s Daraa, [Enab Baladi](#), August 28, 2021

Withholding his name for security reasons, a displaced person from Daraa’s Palestinian refugee camp said he has to work for an entire year in order to be able to rent an apartment in Daraa. Rising rental prices in Daraa show that the people of the same governorate are not helping each other overcome the crisis they are going through.

UNRWA is deeply saddened by the killing of the student at Balata Boys School, Imad Saleh Hashash, [UNRWA](#), August 26, 2021

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is deeply saddened by the killing of 15-year-old Imad Saleh Khaled Hashash from Balata refugee camp, in the occupied West Bank, during the clashes that followed an arrest operation carried out by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) in the camp yesterday.

Publications:

Under Scrutiny: Allegations of Use of Human Shields by Palestinian Armed Groups and the International Criminal Court Investigation, [Law4Palestine](#), August 27, 2021

The question arises about the consequences of this Israeli refusal on the legal track to investigate the crimes that Israel is believed to have committed before the International Criminal Court. Does this represent a new challenge for Palestine? And how will Karim Khan, the ICC's new prosecutor, deal with this matter, and how will he investigate the cases that he is supposed to start working on in light of the Israeli refusal? What legal mechanisms the Court can employ to help its investigations in light of this refusal? This is what this article is aiming to address.

Privacy Violated In Palestine: ISPs Leave Private Data Exposed, [Scoop World](#), August 25, 2021

Internet service providers (ISPs) in Palestine are failing to protect their customers' privacy. Through a joint study, Privacy Violated: Protection of Customers' Personal Information by Internet Service Providers in Palestine, ImpACT International for Human Rights Policies and Access Now explore how the absence of right-respecting and user-centric privacy policies are leaving individuals' personal data up for grabs.

Events:

UNRWA, Its Mandate, Successes, and Challenges, [Harvard Kennedy School](#), Sep 16, 2021

At a moment when public policy and public health are becoming increasingly intertwined, UNRWA Commissioner-General **Philippe Lazzarini** will share his unique perspective on UNRWA's past, present, and future strategies for supporting Palestinian refugees.

Digital Espionage: A Global Pandemic, [Jadaliyya](#), Sep 01, 2021

Wednesday, 1 September_a conversation between digital rights campaigner Marwa Fatafta and Jadaliyya co-editor Mouin Rabbani about recent revelations concerning the NSO/Pegasus digital espionage program and its broader implications.

Marwa Fatafta leads Access Now's work on digital rights in the Middle East and North Africa region. She has written extensively on technology, human rights, and internet freedoms in Palestine and the wider MENA region. She is also a Policy Analyst at Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network.



The Israel Lobby in Academia: Online film screening, ***Palestine Legal***, Sep 1, 2021

Join us online for a special one-hour cut of the censored documentary “The Lobby—USA.” Originally produced by Al Jazeera and employing undercover investigation, broadcast of the “The Lobby—USA” was canceled following intense pressure by the Israel Lobby on the government of Qatar.

This special cut of “The Lobby—USA,” prepared by an organizer and researcher involved in the creation of the documentary, focuses on the suppression of Palestine activism on college campuses.

The film screening will be followed by a discussion with:

- **Sumaya Awad**, Director of Strategy at the Adalah Justice Project
- **Liz Jackson**, Senior Staff Attorney at Palestine Legal
- **Noah Kulwin**, Co-host of Blowback podcast
- **Khury Peterson-Smith**, Middle East Fellow at The Institute for Policy Studies