



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

GNQP Newsletter

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

2nd Edition

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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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Latest Developments

Palestinian lawyer confident of stopping Jerusalem evictions, [*Arab News*](#), May 04, 2021

Lawyers and activists trying to prevent the eviction of some 87 Palestinian residents from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah district of Jerusalem appeared to be upbeat this week.

“We sat for hours with the judge and each of us gave suggestions to settle the case,” Hussein said. “Our suggestion is that we deposit the rental money for the units to a secure fund at the court until the real owner of the land — the housing units were built in the 1950s — is determined.”

Israeli Supreme Court Postpones Ruling on Sheikh Jarrah Evictions, [*Palestine Chronicle*](#), May 07, 2021

The Israeli Supreme Court postponed Thursday its ruling on the eviction of several Palestinian families from the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah until May 10.

Sheikh Jarrah explained: The past and present of East Jerusalem neighbourhood, [*Middle East Eye*](#), May 06, 2021

Palestinians had called for Jordan to release official papers and documents to prove their ownership. In April, Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi handed over documents proving Palestinian ownership of their properties in Sheikh Jarrah, in a bid to prevent a new mass eviction.

‘They tossed us out like garbage’: The Palestinians who lost their Jerusalem homes, [*972Mag*](#), Apr 29, 2021

Israel demolished a record number of Palestinian homes in Jerusalem in 2020. Behind each one is a family that lost everything, with many unable to rebuild their lives.

‘We put our souls into this land’: Palestinians mourn land lost to settler arson attack, [*Mondoweiss*](#), May 06, 2021

Palestinians from the village of Burin were forced to watch as the night sky lit up their village with orange flames and clouds of smoke. By the time the settlers and soldiers retreated, the damage had already been done.

Palestinian territories see increased violence over Jerusalem, [*Al-Monitor*](#), May 06, 2021

Escalation is expected in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, given several strong indicators that portend an imminent explosion.

Jerusalem tensions surge after Orthodox group denied worship entry, [*Arab News*](#), May 03, 2021

Bassem Khoury, a Palestinian Christian businessman, led a delegation of 37 diplomats in Jerusalem to attend Holy Fire ceremonies. They were met by an Israeli force that denied their entry. An Israeli official physically attacked Khoury at the New Gate.

Israel is trying hard to erase Jerusalem's Palestinians, [*Al-Jazeera*](#), May 04, 2021

Israel does its best to make life for Jerusalem's Palestinians a misery and a constant struggle. It does everything to make us disappear. But we will not. Every day, we face police brutality, arrests, home evictions and demolitions, impoverishment and a denial of basic human rights. The occupier's violence is a permanent feature of our lives.

Two Palestinians killed by Israeli troops after alleged attack, [*Al-Jazeera*](#), May 07, 2021

Two Palestinians were killed and a third critically wounded after an alleged attack on an Israeli military base in the northern occupied West Bank, Israeli media reported on Friday.

Palestinians criticise social media censorship over Sheikh Jarrah, [*Al-Jazeera*](#), May 07, 2021

Social media users sharing content from Sheikh Jarrah complain their accounts have been censored, limited or shut down.

Jerusalem clashes wound 22 Palestinians as land rights tensions mount, [*Arab News*](#), May 06, 2021

Twenty-two Palestinians were wounded in overnight clashes with Israeli police in annexed east Jerusalem, the Red Crescent said Thursday, as tensions flare over a controversial land rights case.

Israeli settlers attack Palestinian following shooting of Israeli students in West Bank, Al-Monitor, May 03 2021

The attack took place around noon local time in the town of Far'ata west of the Palestinian city Nablus in the central West Bank. A group of settlers from the nearby Havat Gilad outpost allegedly physically assaulted Mohammad Salman while he was grazing livestock on his property. He went to the hospital due to injuries, the Palestinian Authority's official WAFA News Agency reported.

Video shows Israeli settler trying to take over Palestinian house, Al-Jazeera, May 04, 2021

"If I don't steal your home, someone else will steal it," was the answer given by an Israeli settler to Mona al-Kurd, a young Palestinian woman who accused him of stealing her home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in the occupied East Jerusalem.

Israel Seeks Stiffer Punishment for Rabbi Convicted of Inciting Violence Against Palestinians, Haaretz, May 05, 2021

Yosef Elitzur received a four-month suspended sentence for his inflammatory opinion pieces; state prosecutors want nine to 12 months either in prison or community service. The maximum is five years behind bars

Palestinian fears rise as settlers visit synagogue ruins in Jericho, Al-Monitor, May 03, 2021

Israeli settlers have been increasing their visits to the ruins of the ancient Naaran and Shahwan synagogues in the Jericho area in the West Bank and also performing rituals in them, sparking Palestinian fears about Israeli intentions for the region.

'Equality' is finally breaching Washington's debate on Israel-Palestine, 972Mag, May 06, 2021

A policy paper centering equal rights for both peoples marks a radical break from the Israel-centric discourse of mainstream U.S. think tanks.

Why Human Rights Watch Designating Israel's Crimes as Apartheid Is a Very Big Deal, Common Dreams, May 05, 2021

Human Rights Watch is the best-known and arguably the most influential among Washington elites of any of the many human rights organizations in the United States. So when HRW issues

an unsparing, 200-plus page legal and factual report concluding that Israeli government authorities are guilty of the crime of apartheid, it is a very big deal.

Israel's Apartheid Doesn't Make a Difference, *Foreign Policy*, May 06, 2021

the practical effect of HRW's report, for all the support and criticism it has accrued from both sides, is likely to be nil. The status quo on the ground will remain; the coarsening of politics and discourse on the conflict in world capitals, city councils, and college campuses will continue apace; and governments will continue to mouth support for a two-state solution—a foreign-policy unicorn.

Mouthpiece for Israel: US Media on HRW report, Jerusalem, *Palestine Studies*, May 05, 2021

Unable to reject the findings of a leading human rights organization well-respected in liberal circles, the Washington Post and New York Times chose to delegitimize the long-overdue HRW report by reporting almost exclusively on the reactions of those who opposed it. In the Washington Post write-up, Ishaan Tharoor shared responses to the news from just two sources: the Israeli embassy in Washington and the Israel lobby group J Street.

The Irish Times view on accusations of apartheid against Israel: The high moral ground, *Irish Times*, May 02, 2021

International law defines apartheid as a crime against humanity in which one racial group dominates another through intentional, systematic and inhumane acts of oppression. Race is interpreted broadly to apply to ethnic groups. Definitions matter in the battle for hearts and minds, shaping the contours of “legitimate” political debate. And Israel has a case to answer.

It is becoming harder to deny that Israel is an apartheid state, *Al-Jazeera*, May 04, 2021

As Israel's Jewish supremacism became more explicit in recent years, it has become harder to argue against its classification as an apartheid state. How can a rights organisation, or anyone else continue to deny that Israel is an apartheid state after the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, proudly stated that “Israel is not a state of all its citizens ... Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people and them alone”?

European countries urge Israel to halt planned settlement expansion, *Al-Monitor*, May 06, 2021

The governments of France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom are urging Israel to call off plans to construct more Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Washington Has Enabled Israeli Extremism, Foreign Policy, May 06, 2021

Washington remains firmly in denial about the growing trend of extremism in Israeli politics and society—a reality that has both enabled and fueled it.

Palestinian-American professor sues US congresswoman, Arab News, May 05, 2021

A Palestinian-American history professor is suing Chicago Congresswoman Marie Newman for breach of contract after she allegedly refused to honor a written agreement she signed promising him a high-profile position at her office after her electoral victory last year.

PM said to repeatedly dismiss US objections to building beyond Green Line, Times of Israel, May 06, 2021

Senior Biden officials conveyed disapproval of East Jerusalem, West Bank construction 3 times in past month; in one exchange, Netanyahu responded, 'Jerusalem is not a settlement'

Netanyahu said to curb Temple Mount access in deal with ultra-conservative rabbi, Times of Israel, May 05, 2021

Activists pushing for Jewish access to Jerusalem holy site claim recent closure to Jews came in exchange for Rabbi Tsvi Tau's support for government backed by Islamist Ra'am party

Possible Israel war crimes in East Jerusalem land right case: UN, Al-Jazeera, May 07, 2021

"UN rights office spokesman Rupert Colville "We wish to emphasise that East Jerusalem remains part of the occupied Palestinian territory, in which international humanitarian law applies," Colville said. "The occupying power ... cannot confiscate private property in occupied territory." Transferring civilian populations into occupied territory is illegal under international law and "may amount to war crimes", he added.

UN committee to examine Palestinian apartheid charges against Israel, J Post, May 03, 2021

A United Nations arbitrations committee is poised to examine a Palestinian Authority complaint that Israel has committed acts of apartheid.

Statement by UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, on the surge in tensions and violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNESCO, May 06, 2021

I call on political, religious and community leaders on all sides to stand firmly against violence, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric. If unaddressed, the situation could spiral out of control.”

Israel buries Palestinians in numbered graves, Al-Monitor, May 03, 2021

Three years after he was killed by Israel near the Gaza border, the body of a 16-year-old Palestinian was returned to his family, reviving controversy of Israel’s so-called cemeteries of numbers.

Health chief urges Israel to use vaccine stockpile to inoculate Palestinians, Times of Israel, May 07, 2021

Health Ministry head Chezy Levy says failure to provide shots or help Palestinians with inoculation program threatens the gains made by Israel

How Netanyahu Learned to Love Israeli Arab Parties, Foreign Policy, May 07, 2021

No matter the immediate outcome, a dramatic change is occurring in Israel that will likely be impossible to reverse: A broad consensus is emerging regarding the legitimacy of Arab Israelis throughout the political system. That means 10 to 20 Knesset seats once considered off-limits are now fair game in future coalitions. This phenomenon will only increase as awareness of their newfound political power drives up voter participation among Arab Israelis. In the end, when historians assess his complicated legacy, Netanyahu might one day assume the somewhat surprising mantle of the great legitimizer of Arab political power in Israel.

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid tasked with forming a government, The Guardian, May 05, 2021

Israel’s president has tasked the head of the opposition, Yair Lapid, with forming a government after Benjamin Netanyahu failed to do so, leaving the country’s longest-serving leader facing a fresh challenge to his historic hold on power.

Palestinian factions mull next steps after Abbas calls off elections, Al-Monitor, May 07, 2021

Various Palestinian factions, including Hamas, have rejected President Mahmoud Abbas’ decision to postpone the legislative elections and his call to form a unity government.

Will Violence Erupt If Abbas Cancels the Palestinian Elections?, [The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies](#), Apr 03, 2021

Hamas and others are threatening violence if Mahmoud Abbas cancels the elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council scheduled for May 22. However, Google Trends data on the declining popularity of both Hamas and Fatah suggest that an eruption of violence is unlikely.

Election fiasco illustrates leadership vacuum, [Electronic Intifada](#), Apr 30, 2021

By canceling the vote, perhaps Abbas has done more than he would even by losing an election to show up the lack of legitimacy of the current crop of Palestinian leaders.

Why Palestinian Elections Should Get Back on Track, [Crisis Group](#), Apr 30, 2021

Citing Israeli obstruction, President Mahmoud Abbas has put off elections that were slated to begin in May. The decision is disappointing, as Palestinian institutions need refreshing. The polls should be rescheduled, with the full backing of outside powers, including the European Union and United States.

Palestinian dancer jailed in Israel, [Al-Monitor](#), May 02, 2021

Palestinians are accusing Israel of arbitrarily cracking down on cultural expression.

“Khattab did not commit any crime, and his arrest represents nothing but an Israeli attack on all artists — in an attempt to hide their activities and performances from the world, to fight the Palestinian history and national identity. Palestinian artists are having to pay the price for expressing their love for their homeland and heritage, by being detained inside Israeli prisons in poor and degrading conditions.”

Crimes against humanity: Israeli lawyers sue government for forcing citizens to take the Pfizer mRNA shot, [Naturak Health 365](#), May 06, 2021

Lawyers, human rights activists file petition against Israeli government for forcing citizens to take experimental COVID drugs and disregarding informed consent

Palestinian refugees

I'd rather die than go back to Gaza: Palestinian fights deportation from Denmark, [The National News](#), May 03, 2021

An IT worker living in Denmark for nine years faces deportation to Palestine, a place he left a few days after he was born, after losing his Danish residency on a minor technicality.

Publications

Israel Has Been Conducting a Secretive Land Registration Process in Sheikh Jarrah, Excluding Palestinians, [*IR Amim*](#), May 04, 2021

For the first time in 53 years, Israel has underhandedly began land registration procedures in East Jerusalem, exclusively registering land rights of properties to alleged Jewish owners without the public's knowledge. Such a move is unprecedented and has potential acute ramifications on Palestinian properties across East Jerusalem, which could ultimately lead to widespread Palestinian dispossession in the city.

Report: Captive Markets, Captive Lives | Palestinian Workers in Israeli Settlements, [*Al-Haq NGO*](#), May 01, 2021

The report examines the experiences of Palestinian workers in Israel's unlawful settlement enterprise in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Al-Haq illustrates Israel's reliance on the Oslo Accords to maintain control over the occupied Palestinian population and deepen their fragmentation, while holding the Palestinian economy captive, in what amounts to 'economic annexation'.

Palestinians: A land without promise, [*Rosalux Geneva*](#), Jan 18, 2021

One sequence of historical wrongs – antisemitism in Europe, culminating in the horrors of the Holocaust – led to the creation of Israel. But that gave birth to another set of wrongs: the displacement of Palestinians from their homes and their homeland. The Palestinian diaspora still has no hope of return, and many are still not accepted in the places where they live.

Palestinian access to water & attacks on WASH structures in Area C, [*West Bank Protection Consortium*](#), Apr 2021

In addition, WASH infrastructures in Area C are not immune from the ever-present threat of demolitions and confiscations, facilitated by Israel's implementation of a discriminatory planning policy. In 2020, less than 1 percent of Area C was allocated for Palestinian development by the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA). These highly restrictive planning policies and the associated destruction of private property and humanitarian assistance deny communities access to affordable and safe water, including hygiene and sanitation facilities.

THE POLITICS OF A DEFINITION: How the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism Is Being Misrepresented, [*Free Speech on Israel*](#), Apr 2021

oth the AJC and SWC have conflated legitimate criticism of Israel with antisemitism. 11 The AJC applies the epithet to 'anti-Zionism' as well as the campaign for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel.

Events

The Palestinian Nakba: What Happened in 1948 and Why It Still Matters, Middle East Institute, May 10, 2021 11:00 am Est

The Middle East Institute and Project48 are pleased to host an esteemed group of experts to shed light on what transpired in 1948 and why the events of the Nakba still resonate today and remain central to understanding Israel and Palestine. This event is co-sponsored by the Foundation for Middle East Peace, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Institute for Palestine Studies.

Speakers:

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib: Representative, 13th District of Michigan, US House of Representatives

Umar Al-Ghubari: Program director, Zochrot

Rashid Khalidi: Professor, Columbia University

Mohammed El-Kurd: Author and Poet

Lubnah Shomali: Advocacy manager, BADIL

Jerusalem on the Verge: Dispossession & Violence in Sheikh Jarrah, Foundation for Middle East Peace, May 06, 2021

To discuss this struggle and the dynamics in Jerusalem, and how they are part of a broader struggle against escalating Israeli policies of Palestinian dispossession in Jerusalem and beyond, FMEP President Lara Friedman will be joined by Aseel AlBajeh, a legal researcher and advocacy officer at Al Haq, and Budour Hassan, author and journalist.

The PLO & the Palestinian Diaspora: Reviving a Source of Power, Foundation for Middle East Peace and Al Shabaka, May 12, 2021

Speakers:

Zaha Hassan: Carnegie Endowment for Peace

Nadia Hijab: Al Shabaka

Inès Abdel Razek: Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy

Sarah Anne Minkin: FMEP