



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 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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In the Spotlight

Palestinians Mark a Tense Land Day After Spate of Deadly Attacks in Israel, (by Jack Khoury and Yaniv Kubovich), [HAARETZ](#), March 30, 2022.

The Israeli military doesn't expect violence on the Gaza border, but forces are beefed up ahead of Memorial Day, which marks the loss of Arab land in Galilee.

Patriarch Theophilos III: Settler Takeover of Jerusalem Hotel Threatens Christian Existence, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 30, 2022.

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022– The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III decried the Israeli settler takeover of a high-profile Christian hotel in Jerusalem as a threat to Christian existence.

WCC Expresses Solidarity with Jerusalem Heads of Churches as Settlers Takeover Hotel, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 30, 2022.

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022– The World Council of Churches expressed solidarity with the heads of Jerusalem churches as Israeli settlers took over a high-profile hotel in the Old City of Jerusalem.

PCBS Issues Report on the 46th Annual Commemoration of Land Day in Statistical Figures, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 30, 2022.

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022– On the occasion of the Forty-Sixth annual commemoration of Land Day, Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), highlighted Land Day in statistical figures.

Gunman Kills Five Israelis in Tel Aviv Suburb in Third Shooting Attack in a Week, [HAARETZ](#), March 29, 2022.

The assailant, a 26-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank who had previously served time in Israel, was shot dead; Bennett says Israel will fight terrorism 'with an iron fist.

King Holds Talks with Palestinian President in Ramallah, Reaffirms Jordan's Support for Palestinian People, [THE JORDAN TIMES](#), March 28, 2022.

His Majesty King Abdullah, in Ramallah on Monday, reaffirmed that Jordan will always stand with the Palestinian people and support them in the face of challenges, saying "we are closest to each other and we are in the same boat".

'We Are One,' Abbas Tells Jordanian King During Rare West Bank Visit, (by Aaron Boxerman) [THE TIMES OF ISRAEL](#), March 28, 2022.

Abdullah arrives on eve of the potentially incendiary Ramadan holiday after the kingdom declined an invitation to the Negev summit of Arab diplomats on the same date.

US\$20 Million For the First Phase of Long-Term Investment in The Palestinian Education Sector, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 28, 2022.

On Monday, March 28, 2022 - The World Bank approved its first Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) in the education sector globally, in support of an eight-year program that addresses key educational challenges in the West Bank and Gaza, today said a World Bank press release.

PM Shtayyeh Says Arab Normalization Meetings with Israel Without Ending the Occupation Are an Illusion, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 28, 2022.

On Monday, March 28, 2022 - Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh criticized the recent meetings between Arab states and Israel, stressing that holding these meetings, without ending the Israeli occupation, is an illusion.

Right-Wing Tears Into Bennett For Using The Term ‘West Bank’ At Blinken Meeting, [THE TIMES OF ISRAEL](#), March 27, 2022.

Yesha Council settlement organization, which the premier headed before he went into politics, calls expression a sign of ‘moral decline’; PM’s office says the statement was ‘accidental’.

President Abbas Affirms Commitment to International References as He Welcomes US Secretary of State, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 27, 2022.

On Sunday, March 27, 2022 – President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas affirmed today his commitment to the international peace references, as he received US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken at the presidential headquarters in Ramallah.

CEC Announces Results for Second Phase of The Local Elections, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 27, 2022.

On Sunday, March 27, 2022 – The Central Elections Commission announced the results for the Second Phase of the Local Elections, which took place in 50 localities in the West Bank yesterday. The Results included the number of votes and seats obtained by each list, as well as the names of the winners.

Fascist Israeli Lawmaker, Settlers Break into Jerusalem’s Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 27, 2022.

On Sunday, March 27, 2022 – The fascist Israeli lawmaker Itamar Ben Gvir along with dozens of extremist settlers today broke into Jerusalem’s Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, according to sources.

Palestinians Vote In Second Phase of Municipal Elections, [THE JORDAN TIMES](#), March 26, 2022.

Palestinian Territories — Voters cast ballots on Saturday in towns and cities of the Israeli-occupied West Bank in a rare democratic exercise following a decade and a half of delays to Palestinian elections.

Israeli Airstrike Survivor At HRC: Hold Perpetrators Accountable For 'Wiping Out My Family', [WAFA News Agency](#), March 26, 2022.

On Saturday, March 26, 2022 - A survivor of an airstrike during Israel's military attack on the Gaza Strip in May 2021 has called on the international community at the United Nations Human Rights Council to put an end to Israel's enjoyment of impunity and to bring justice to the victims.

EU Says High Turnout in Local Elections Proves Palestinians Are Eager to Participate in Decision-Making, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 26, 2022.

On Saturday, March 26, 2022– Shadi Othman, spokesman for the European Union mission in Palestine, said that the high turnout in the local elections in the West Bank is evidence of the desire of Palestinian people to participate in decision-making.

UN Human Rights Expert: “Israel’s 55-Year Occupation of Palestinian Territory is Apartheid”, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 25, 2022.

On Friday, March 25, 2022 – Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory, called on the international community to accept and adopt the findings in his current report, echoing recent findings by Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights organizations, that apartheid is being practiced by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory.

UN Special Rapporteur Says Israel Is Committing ‘Pitiless’ Apartheid in New Report, (by Yumna Patel) [Mondoweiss](#), March 24, 2022.

“With the eyes of the international community-wide open, Israel has imposed upon Palestine an apartheid reality in a post-apartheid world, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Michael Lynk writes in a new report.

Palestine/Israel

BREAKING: Two Palestinians Killed in Israeli Army Incursion into Jenin, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 31, 2022.

On Thursday, March 31, 2022 - Two young Palestinians were killed today in a large-scale Israeli army raid of the northern West Bank city of Jenin, according to the Ministry of Health.

President Abbas Condemns the Killing of Israeli Civilians, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 29, 2022.

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022 – President Mahmoud Abbas expressed tonight his condemnation of the killing of Israeli civilians earlier this evening, and stressed that the killing of Palestinian and Israeli civilians will only lead to further deterioration of the situation, especially as we are approaching the holy month of Ramadan and the Christian and Jewish holidays.

Heads Of Churches in Jerusalem Condemn Settler's Breaking into Church-Owned Hotel in Jerusalem, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 29, 2022.

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022 - Heads of churches in Jerusalem expressed their condemnation and rejection of settler's breaking into the Little Petra Hotel, a place of rest of Christian pilgrims for decades, in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Palestinians Prepare to Mark Land Day with Rallies in Arab Towns in Israel, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 29, 2022.

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022 – Marking the 46th anniversary of Land Day which coincides on March 30, Palestinians are planning rallies in Arab towns in Israel to commemorate the protests on that day 46 years ago against the Israeli government takeover of Palestinian land and the brutal police crackdown that left six Palestinians dead.

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Warns Israeli Settlers Breaking into Church Property Could Ignite Turbulence, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 28, 2022.

On Monday, March 28, 2022 - the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem y warned that Israeli settlers breaking into a church property in the Old City of Jerusalem could ignite a turbulent scenario.

WATCH: Jewish Settlers Occupy Historic Building in East Jerusalem's Christian Quarter, [THE PALESTINE CHRONICLE](#), March 28, 2022.

Members of a Jewish settler organization occupy the Petra Hotel, in East Jerusalem.

West Bank Local Elections Bring Hamas, PFLP Closer, (by Ahmad Melhem), [AL-MONITOR](#), March 28, 2022.

Local elections in the West Bank seem to have boosted ties between Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which are running as allies.

Four Palestinian-Owned Vehicles Torched in An Arson Attack by Israeli Settlers in A Northern West Bank Village, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 28, 2022.

On Monday, March 28, 2022 – Israeli settlers early today sneaked into the northern West Bank village of Jaloud and set fire to Palestinian-owned vehicles, according to Ghassan Daghlis, a local official.

Two Israelis Killed in Shooting Attack Amid U.S.-Mideast Summit, Assaults Shot Dead, [HAARETZ](#), March 27, 2022.

Two people were killed on Sunday in a shooting attack in the central Israeli city of Hadera, police said, in the second deadly attack within days. The two assailants, who police say are Arab Israeli citizens, were shot dead by undercover officers operating at the scene. Police found three guns, three knives, and about a thousand bullets while searching the assailants.

Settlers set up caravans on Palestinian land in Nablus, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 27, 2022.

On Sunday, March 20, 2022 – Israeli occupation authorities released the Palestinian Authority's Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, on a bail of 10,000 shekels (\$3,300) after detaining him for 24 hours and blocking him from traveling abroad via Allenby Bridge border crossing.

Regional

President Abbas to King Abdallah: It's A Great Honor for Us to Have You Visit Us, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 28, 2022.

On Monday, March 28, 2022 - President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed at the presidential headquarters in Ramallah Jordan's King Abdallah II, accompanied by Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdallah II, telling his guests "It is a great honor for us to have his Majesty the King visit us, and we also welcome his Highness, the Crown Prince. We are pleased to see you in your second country, Palestine, to discuss many issues and to continue consultation between us. We want to keep constant communication, whether through visits or through contacts between us."

King Abdallah Of Jordan Arrived in Ramallah for A Meeting with President Abbas, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 28, 2022.

Monday, March 28, 2022 – Jordan's King Abdallah II arrived in Ramallah for a meeting with President Mahmoud Abbas. He was accompanied by Crown Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdallah II.

PM Shtayyeh Thanks Emir of Qatar for Statements in Support of Palestinian Rights, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 26, 2022.

Saturday, March 26, 2022 - Colonial Israeli settlers installed a number of caravans on Palestinian-owned land in the village of Qusra, to the south of the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, according to local sources.

International

PM Shtayyeh Discusses Political Developments with Sweden's State Secretary for International Development Cooperation, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 29, 2022.

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022– Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh met at his office in Ramallah with Swedish Secretary of State for International Development Cooperation, Jenny Olsson, during which they discussed the latest political developments and promoting mutual cooperation.

EU Calls for Protection of Palestinians, Prevention Of “Violence” Following Settler Attacks, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 28, 2022.

On Monday, March 28, 2022 – The European Union called for the protection of Palestinians and prevention of “violence” in following the recent string of settler attacks against Palestinians and their property.

Abbas Asks Blinken to Press Israel on Settlement Freeze, Settler Violence, (by Jack Khoury and Reuters) [HAARETZ](#), March 27, 2022.

The U.S. secretary of state urged Israel to de-escalate tensions before Ramadan, as he visits the region for historic 'Negev Summit' with Arab allies.

Foreign ministers of Bahrain, UAE, Morocco and Egypt arrive for Negev Summit, (by Lazar Berman and Aaron Boxerman) [THE TIMES OF ISRAEL](#), March 27, 2022.

The foreign ministers of Bahrain, the UAE, Morocco, and Egypt landed on Sunday evening in Israel ahead of a landmark regional summit in the southern Negev Desert, where they were joined by their Israeli counterpart, Yair Lapid. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived later in the evening at Kibbutz Sde Boker for the summit after landing in Israel on Saturday night.

UK Pro-Israel Group Demands Pro-Palestine's Singer Music Be Deleted from Spotify, [WAFA News Agency](#), March 27, 2022.

On Sunday, March 27, 2022 – A British pro-Israel group has demanded that Spotify delete the music of UK rapper Lowkey, who's known for being a Palestine solidarity campaigner and a supporter of the Palestinian rights and people.

UN: Israel Violates Humanitarian Law in Palestine, [MIDDLE EAST MONITOR](#), March 26, 2022.

United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet announced on Friday that Israel continues violating humanitarian law in Palestine. Bachelet presented three reports to the UN Human Rights Council's 49th session concerning the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, stating: "The human rights situation in the

Occupied Palestinian Territory deteriorated further during the reporting period, and violations of international humanitarian law continued and increased.

Iowa Governor Signs Bill Targeting Ben & Jerry's Over Israel, Adopts Controversial Antisemitism Definition In State, (by Michael Arria)

Mondoweiss, March 25, 2022.

This week Iowa's GOP Governor Kim Reynolds signed two bills into law related to Israel. One targets companies outside the United States that "boycott" Israel. The other adopts the controversial International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism across the state.

Israel to Host US, Arab Diplomats In 'Abraham Accords' Summit,

ALJAZEERA, March 25, 2022.

Meetings will include US Secretary of State Blinken, diplomats from Arab states that have normalized ties with Israel.

Palestinian Refugees and UNRWA

UNRWA: UNRWA School Teacher Wins Earth Prize Educator of The Year, March 30, 2022.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is proud to announce that Safa' Obeid, a teacher at the UNRWA Sweileh Preparatory Girls' School in Jordan, was selected as the Earth Prize Educator of the Year. Awarded a prize of US\$ 12,500, Ms. Obeid was selected by Professor Mario Salomone from the World Environmental Education Congress.

UNRWA: Cutting Edge UNRWA It Hub in Blockaded Gaza Strip, March 28, 2022.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) celebrated the relaunch of the UNRWA Information Technology Service Centre (ITSC) at its modernized offices in Gaza.

UNRWA: "We Can Do It": Female Empowerment & Green Initiatives at The Women Programme Association in Burj Barajneh Camp, March 27, 2022.

Mariam al-Shaar, head of the Women Programme Association (WPA), a community—based organization in Burj Barajneh Camp, Lebanon guided us through their rooftop garden. The rooftop provides a safe space for women to gather, the aromatic scent of parsley, cabbage and green onions wafting around them. Immediately it reminded us of Palestinian cuisine, rich with natural flavour.

UNRWA: Ensuring UNRWA Inclusive Education in The West Bank with The Support of Education Cannot Wait: Ali, A Palestine Refugee Child Living with Disabilities Dreams to Become a Doctor, March 25, 2022.

It is one of January's coldest days in Jalazone refugee camp, located a few kilometers north of Ramallah in the West Bank. Despite torrential rains pouring down on the UNRWA Jalazone School, the gloomy weather does not stop the laughter inside a colorful green and yellow classroom.

Analysis & Opinions

Copycat Attack After ISIS-inspired Murders Is Israel's Worst Fear Come True, (by Amos Harel), HAARETZ, March 30, 2022.

None of the three deadly attacks this week were preceded by intelligence warnings, with security officials seeming to grope in the dark. Land Day on Wednesday is likely to ignite flareups.

Israel's Negev Summit Was a Good Thing, but Don't Call It 'Historic', (by Alon Pinkas), HAARETZ, March 29, 2022.

Any event that draws the foreign ministers of Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain and the UAE, plus the U.S. secretary of state, to Israel is significant. But the absence of the Palestinians was just as important.

Normalization Won't Make Palestinians Disappear, (by Noa Landau), HAARETZ, March 29, 2022.

If only I had a shekel for every person who explained to me recently that the Israeli problem in the Negev is the loss of governability, that the Russians aren't advancing on the Ukrainian front as they hoped, that Israel has failed to learn the lesson of the Holocaust regarding refugees, and my current favorite current-events cliché: That today we can say with certainty that Francis Fukuyama was wrong.

At Negev Summit, Allies Calmed Somewhat by US Recommitment to The Region, (by Lazar Berman), THE TIMES OF ISRAEL, March 28, 2022.

The Biden administration clearly can't quit the Middle East, and though determined to sign a deal with Iran, it is once again playing an active role.

The Symbolic Timing of Israel's Mideast Summit for Palestinians, (by Jack Khoury), HAARETZ, March 27, 2022.

Twenty years since the Arab Peace Initiative was put forth in Beirut, the question of Palestine has all but disappeared from the diplomatic map.

Israel's Police Minister Will Pay for His Gaffe, but What About the Palestinian Teen Killed by His Officers? (By Gideon Levy), [HAARETZ](#), March 27, 2022.

Omer Bar-Lev was not confused. He is also not as disengaged as he is accused of being. On the contrary, he's proved that he is in touch with Israel's political reality, reflecting it faithfully. Obviously, he erred in an embarrassing way in saying that the terrorist who murdered four passersby in Be'er Sheva last week would be imprisoned and brought to trial with a harsh sentence meted out, after he had already been shot dead at the scene, but his speech was remarkably similar to all official eulogies, resembling most statements made by Israeli politicians in their mixture of hollowness and mendacity.

Israel's Mideast Summit Is Ignoring Us Palestinians. We're Ignoring It, Too (by Sheren Falah Saab), [HAARETZ](#), March 27, 2022.

Let's be honest. Arabs don't interest anyone in the Jewish country. They can die, burn, murder each other. The fewer Arabs, the better. And even if someone does express interest in Arabs, it will be in the wealthy ones thousands of kilometers away who want to do business with us and talk about luxury towers and artificial islands.

Yet Another 'Apartheid' Report Builds Pressure On Liberal Zionists To Recognize The 'Lived Reality Of Palestinians, (by Philip Weiss), [Mondoweiss](#), March 25, 2022.

Palestinians are evidently not entitled to the same rights as other people. This is the only Western standard that has been applied in the last hundred years.

Publications and Statements

Palestine's Legal Scene | Issue. 116 | 20 – 26 march 2022, [Law for Palestine](#), March 27, 2022.

Civil Society and the Question of Palestine - NGO Action News – 24 March 2022, [UNITED NATIONS](#), March 24, 2022.

EVENTS

[Restoring Collective Identity and Dignity](#): Palestinian Refugees: The Quest for Solutions. Lex Takkenberg in Conversation with Bashir Bashir.

***Bashir Bashir** is Associate Professor at the Open University of Israel and Senior Research fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. He is co-editor of *The Holocaust and Nakba: A New Grammar of Trauma and History* (Columbia University Press, 2018); and *The Arab and Jewish Questions: Geographies of Engagement in Palestine and Beyond* (Columbia University Press, 2020).*

***Lex Takkenberg** is Senior Advisor on the Question of Palestine at the Civil Society Organisation Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development and a non-resident Professor of*



Humanitarian Affairs at Fordham University. Prior to that, he held various positions at UNRWA, including Gaza, Syria, and HQ.

A Conversation with Lara Friedman: How Has America Responded to Amnesty International's Apartheid Report? Thursday, April 7, 6:30 PM EST.

How have America's political class, civil society, Arab and Jewish American organizations reacted towards Amnesty's International report titled "Israel's apartheid against Palestinians?"