



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

## **GNQP Newsletter**

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**22 May 2021**

*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.*

### ***Table of Contents***

<b><i>Latest Developments</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b>International</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Israeli Narrative</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Statements:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Palestinian refugees</i></b>	<b>10</b>
<b><i>Publications</i></b>	<b>12</b>

## Latest Developments

### **Palestinian Protestors, Israeli Police Clash Again At Al-Aqsa Shortly After Cease-Fire Announcement, [Newsweek](#), May 21, 2021**

The conflict between protestors and Israeli police occurred after Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa, which is a flashpoint holy site sacred to both Muslims and Jews, the Associated Press reported. The mosque was a site of conflict before the fighting between Israel and Hamas started.

### **Quick Thoughts on the Gaza Ceasefire, [Jadaliyya](#), May 21, 2021**

Washington is determined to revive the PA as a credible institution in order to weaken Hamas and Islamic Jihad. While raising the dead back to life has a history in Palestine, this attempt – much like the failed 2007 US-sponsored Dahlan coup in the Gaza Strip – is a dead letter.

### **In Pictures: In show of unity, Palestinians go on strike, [Al-Jazeera](#), May 18, 2021**

People across occupied West Bank, Gaza and inside Israel take part in collective action to protest against occupation and Gaza bombardment.

### **Israel bombs ice cream factory in Gaza, [Al-Monitor](#), May 21, 2021**

Sami al-Ghazali, the owner of the Maatoug Booza Factory, never thought that his investments in the local ice cream business in Gaza's supposedly safe industrial zone would vanish in a blink of an eye. But on May 17, his factory was bombed by Israeli artillery shells and completely destroyed.

### **Netanyahu confronted by CBS anchor live on air for attacking Gaza 'to stay in power', [The Independent](#), May 20, 2021**

"You are under investigation for bribery, fraud, breach of trust," the anchor told Mr Netanyahu. "You've also had some difficulty — four failed attempts to put together a government in the last 23 months."

Mr Netanyahu told the CBS anchor: "I think anybody who knows me knows that I've never, ever subordinated security concerns, the life of our soldiers, the life of our citizens for political interests."

### **Israeli radio incites killing, expulsion of Palestinian citizens, [Electronic Intifada](#), May 20, 2021**

Asked by a Palestinian guest phoning in to their radio show on 13 May if Israeli Jews were "allowed to slaughter us," host Yinon Magal replied, "Yes, that's how it will end, correct."

### **From Gaza to peace with Palestinians, Israel has no long-term strategy, Crisis Group, May 19, 2021**

Yet the events of recent days suggest that policymakers now seem unable to achieve even the lesser objective they espouse of long-term quiet not just in Gaza but also in occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank and inside Israel proper.

### **Israel-Palestinian conflict: False and misleading claims fact-checked, BBC, May 16, 2021**

As the Israel-Palestinian conflict has escalated, posts containing misleading or false claims have been widely shared online in recent days.

### **Facebook set up 'special operation center' for content related to Israeli–Palestinian conflict, Politico, May 19, 2021**

Facebook set up a "special operation center" that is active 24 hours a day to moderate hate speech and violent content related to the ongoing Israeli–Palestinian conflict, a senior Facebook executive said Wednesday. The center gathers native speakers of Arabic and Hebrew to "stay ahead of the trends," remove content that violates the company's policies or reinstate material that was wrongfully deleted, Bickert said. "We'll keep it going as long as necessary," she added.

### **Facebook meets with Israeli and Palestinian officials to discuss online hate speech, threats as violence escalates, Politico, May 14, 2021**

Top Facebook lobbyists Nick Clegg and Joel Kaplan and several TikTok executives met over Zoom with Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Thursday evening to discuss the spread of misinformation and violent threats on the social network. Facebook's Clegg and Kaplan are expected to meet with the Palestinian Authority next week, the company said.

### **Venmo is blocking some payments mentioning Palestinian relief funds. The company says it's following the law. Business Insider, May 18, 2021**

Venmo said it was "trying to understand... the reference to 'Palestinian Relief Fund' as well as the "purpose of this payment, including a complete and detailed explanation of what is intended to be paid for and the establishment/location," according to the screenshot. Venmo told Insider it was looking into the matter, which it said relates to its obligations under US sanctions laws.

**The “TikTok intifada”, VOX, May 20, 2021**

Social media played a central role in past Israel-Gaza wars, where clips on YouTube and messages on Facebook and Twitter aimed to report events in real time. But the emergence of new platforms like Telegram and TikTok have allowed more — and younger — people to engage with this flare-up online.

**Israel, social media groups cooperating against Palestinians: NGO, Al-Jazeera, May 20, 2021**

A Palestinian non-governmental organisation has accused social media companies of “closely cooperating” with the Israeli government to censor pro-Palestinian content after Israeli attacks escalated.

**Tech platforms’ treatment of pro-Palestinian content raises bias allegations, Los Angeles Times, May 20, 2021**

Some users have been intentionally misspelling keywords such as “Palestine” or “Israel”; others have begun interspersing posts about the conflict with more mundane images from their everyday lives. On Instagram, some users are advising their followers that adding a COVID-19-themed “Get Vaccinated” or “Stay Home” sticker to a pro-Palestine post will make it more visible.

**Social networks accused of censoring Palestinian content, Columbia Journalism Review, May 19, 2021**

Access Now, 7amleh, and a number of other human rights and advocacy groups recently wrote an open letter to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social-media networks saying their “arbitrary and non-transparent decisions constitute a serious violation of Palestinians’ fundamental rights including their right to freedom of expression, and their right to freedom of association and assembly online, which both Facebook and Twitter have pledged to honor in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.”

**Jewish Google employees call for company to support Palestinians amid Israel’s bombing of Gaza, The Independent, May 19, 2021**

“We ask Google leadership to make a company-wide statement recognising the violence in Palestine and Israel, which must include direct recognition of the harm done to Palestinians by Israeli military and gang violence,” the employees wrote in a version of the letter that has been made public.

### **U.S. Discourse Is Growing More Pro-Palestinian. U.S. Policy Isn't, New York Magazine, May 18, 2021**

The American chattering class's growing sympathy for the Palestinians isn't immaterial. And it could eventually be reflected in public policy. But for the moment, Israel is about as geopolitically secure as it has ever been. The world hasn't gone Corbyn; it's gone illiberal.

### **People of conscience: Palestinians ask you to boycott Israel, The Guardian, May 19, 2021**

Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid struggle, the nonviolent BDS movement needs your support, writes BDS co-founder Omar Barghouti

### **The Palestinian Right of Return Could Go to the ICC, John Quigley, May 17, 2021**

Action by the International Criminal Court would not bring a comprehensive solution. The International Criminal Court cannot impose obligations on a state to provide a remedy. Criminal charges, however, hold the prospect of identifying the displacement and the refusal to repatriate as unlawful and might open a door to a bilaterally negotiated resolution, or to one facilitated through some multilateral process.

### **For Years, Israel's Leaders Have Cultivated Ethnic Hatred. This Is on Them, Newsweek, May 13, 2021**

There is no other name for these words and actions but incitement. And incitement is loudest at the top. During his twelve years in power, Benjamin Netanyahu warned of the danger of Arab citizens participating in elections. He has said that Arab politicians seek to "annihilate us all," and called them an "an existential threat." He gave the futile justification that he only meant the politicians, not the people, but in other contexts, calling a vulnerable group an existential threat has functioned as incitement to the gravest crimes of human society.

## **International**

### **U.S. backing on Gaza won't last much longer, Blinken tells Israeli counterpart, Axios, May 20, 2021**

In their call, Blinken told Ashkenazi the U.S. was blocking a French initiative at the UN Security Council on Gaza but cannot keep backing Israel publicly and diplomatically, mainly at the UN, for much longer, Israeli officials say.

## **Scoop: Biden leaning toward Thomas Nides as ambassador to Israel, [Axios](#), May 20, 2021**

Former congressman Robert Wexler was seen as the other primary contender, and was supported by many members of Congress and a coalition of Jewish organizations, but Biden is leaning towards Nides, the source said, while cautioning that the decision was not final.

## **Jewish Democrats group announces ‘new paradigm’ on Israel, [Forward](#), May 20, 2021**

“There is a new pro-Israel paradigm in the Democratic Party which rejects the false dichotomy of the past,” Halie Soifer, chief of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, said in a Wednesday press release. “Being ‘pro-Israel’ and ‘pro-Palestinian’ are not mutually exclusive, and are no longer viewed as a binary choice.”

## **US says Israel provided information on Gaza media tower bombing, [Al-Jazeera](#), May 18, 2021**

“We did seek further information from Israel on this question,” Blinken said at a joint briefing with Iceland’s foreign minister in Reykjavik on Tuesday. “It’s my understanding that we’ve received some further information through intelligence channels, and it’s not something I can comment on,” he said.

## **Bernie Sanders: The U.S. Must Stop Being an Apologist for the Netanyahu Government, [NY Times](#), May 14, 2021**

I strongly believe that the United States has a major role to play in helping Israelis and Palestinians to build that future. But if the United States is going to be a credible voice on human rights on the global stage, we must uphold international standards of human rights consistently, even when it’s politically difficult. We must recognize that Palestinian rights matter. Palestinian lives matter.

## **Bernie Sanders set for legislative fight against \$735m US-Israel bomb deal, [Al-Araby Al-Jadeed](#), May 20, 2021**

Senator Sanders told The Washington Post: “At a moment when U.S.-made bombs are devastating Gaza, and killing women and children, we cannot simply let another huge arms sale go through without even a congressional debate”.

## **The good cop/bad cop routine on Israel, [Axios](#), May 20, 2021**

An increasing number of Democratic lawmakers became frustrated with President Biden this week for his behind-the-scenes approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Axios found. That's a sea change from a tradition of presidential prominence, as well as unquestioned congressional support for Israel.

**'A radical change': America's new generation of pro-Palestinian voices, *The Guardian*, May 20, 2021**

"The conversation has to change before the policy can change," Mitchell said. "And right now we are seeing a radical change in the conversation surrounding Palestine."

**Pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian protesters clash in New York City, leading to over two dozen arrests, *CBS News*, May 05, 2021**

The New York Police Department told CBS News an unknown individual threw two commercial fireworks into a crowd in midtown, around the area of the Diamond District, which is associated with the city's Jewish community. One victim sustained minor injuries, and the NYPD Arson and Explosives Squad is investigating.

**MSNBC's Ali Velshi: 'Israel's treatment of Palestinians is apartheid. Period.', *FOX NEWS*, May 20, 2021**

"Let's make one thing clear: Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself. That is an indisputable fact. But so do Palestinians, and that's a fact that's often ignored," Velshi began a monologue on his Saturday program. "Palestinians are at best third class citizens in the nation of their birth."

**Iraqis flood streets in support of Palestinians, *Al-Monitor*, May 21, 2021**

Much of the Iraqi public, whether Shiite or Sunni, pro-America or anti-America, seem to agree that the Israeli attacks on the Palestinians — which have left more than 200 dead and more than 1,000 wounded over 11 days — are a crime that Iraqi representatives should take a stand against.

**American Man Loses 22 Members of His Family in Gaza Conflict, *Newsweek*, May 21, 2021**

A man from San Diego has said he is mourning the loss of 22 members of his family following the 11-day conflict between Israel and Hamas which has claimed hundreds of lives and led to the destruction of homes and businesses across the Gaza Strip.

**Associated Press faces backlash after sacking Jewish staffer over posts criticising Israel, *Al-Araby Al-Jadeed*, May 21, 2021**

A Stanford-educated reporter was fired just three weeks into her job at the Associated Press after right-wing students criticised her social media posts about Palestine.

### **AOC, Rashida Tlaib introduce Israel arms sales resolution that could set up unprecedented House debate, The Week, May 19, 2021**

A contingent of progressive House Democrats, headlined by Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), will introduce a resolution seeking to block a United States-proposed \$735 million sale of bombs to Israel, Jewish Currents reports. The news comes after Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee backed away from requesting the White House delay the arms sale.

### **Why is the Israel lobby attacking Ilhan Omar? The Week, May 21, 2021**

The leading pro-Israel lobbying organization in the U.S., the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, has spent thousands of dollars on Facebook attack ads with the faces of Omar and Ocasio-Cortez superimposed on pictures of Hamas rockets — all but implying they are in league with the group

### **The Entire US Tax Code Is Implicated in the Forced Displacement of Palestinians Truth-Out, May 20, 2021**

Our tax money is not just subsidizing Israeli military aid. It subsidizes private provocateurs, settlement lobbies and multinational corporations sowing destruction in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. It is time we start recognizing tax breaks as public funds worthy of public debate and discretion.

### **Israel-Palestine conflict: why Gulf leaders are staying quiet – for now, The Conversation, May, 17, 2021**

The absence of serious criticism of the Israeli response may also open up unrest among their populations. According to a recent survey on the normalisation of ties with Israel, ordinary citizens have low levels of support for such developments. In Lebanon, where far the highest level of support for normalisation is found, only 20% favoured peace. Elsewhere, support was under 10%, with only 3% of Jordanians supporting normalisation.

### **The billion-dollar UAE-Israel gas deal will go forward, Al-Jazeera, May 20, 2021**

It is still unclear whether the UAE will be able to achieve everything it initially intended by investing in an Israeli gas field. However, it is clear that the economic and political gains it can make through this investment are large enough that the ongoing escalation in violence in the region will not deter it from completing the deal.



### **Companies Boycotting Israel Can't Do Business With These U.S. States, Newsweek, May 20, 2021**

Companies that boycott Israel amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza could be met with legal roadblocks due to a majority of U.S. states having passed laws against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

### **Norway wealth fund excludes firms linked to West Bank settlements, Al-Jazeera, May 20, 2021**

Norway's \$1.3 trillion sovereign wealth fund excluded Shapir Engineering and Industry Ltd and Mivne Real Estate KD Ltd. for their activities associated with Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

### **Why Netanyahu thinks America is stupid, Al-Jazeera, May 20, 2021**

Expect Netanyahu to ask for more in return for de-escalation, including more money and arms, and an invitation to Washington before Israel's fifth elections in two years.

### **People across the US join pro-Palestinian protests, CNN, May 19, 2021**

Thousands gathered in major cities across the United States over the weekend to support Palestinians as Israel's military launches massive airstrikes on Gaza and the death toll mounts.

### **German FM expresses 'solidarity' with Israel, calls for cease-fire, Arab News, May 20, 2021**

"I came here to express my solidarity... Israel has the right to defend itself against this massive and unacceptable attack," he said in Tel Aviv of rockets fired by Palestinian armed groups on Israel, before Israel retaliated with air strikes.

### **Jordan's parliament calls for expulsion of Israeli envoy, recall of ambassador, Times of Israel, May 18, 2021**

Jordanian lawmakers on Monday unanimously carried a motion urging the government to expel Israel's ambassador to Amman in protest against Israeli "crimes" against Palestinians.

### **Egyptian banks to receive donations for Gaza, Arab News, May 20, 2021**

Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has launched a fundraising account in all Egyptian banks to help support the reconstruction of Gaza following days of conflict with Israel.

## Israeli Narrative

### Israel's Top Priority: Immediate Confiscation of Illegal Weapons amongst Israeli Arabs, [\*Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies\*](#), May 21, 2021

The foremost and most immediate task confronting Israel after the Gaza war is the confiscation of the tens of thousands of illegal weapons held by the country's Arab citizens, especially criminal gangs, lest they be used in a nationalist/Islamist insurrection.

The myth of the Al-Aqsa 'siege' continues to ignite Palestinian violence, [\*The Hill\*](#), May 19, 2021  
By seeing first-hand the care and sensitivity that Israel displays towards the Al-Haram Al-Sharif, the big lie of the "siege of Al-Aqsa" finally can be dispelled once and for all. Ending this cynical manipulation of Arab rage by Palestinian leaders is a critical step on the path to peace.

### Is this the start of Israel's first Jewish-Arab civil war?, [\*J Post\*](#), May 19, 2021

Palestinian Israelis refuse to acknowledge the dilemma they put Jewish Israelis in when they choose to align themselves with the enemies of the Jewish state.

## Statements:

### The Manifesto of Dignity and Hope, [\*Mondoweiss\*](#), May 18, 2021

In these days, we write a new chapter, a chapter of a united Intifada that seeks our one and only goal: reuniting Palestinian society in all of its different parts; reuniting our political will, and our means of struggle to confront Zionism throughout Palestine.

### Unparalleled growth in attacks and violence against Arabs in Israel, [\*Euro-Med Monitor\*](#), May 20, 2021

Violence against Arabs in Israel has been on the rise recently as the police have repeatedly abused and overlooked abuses against the minority during the past few days, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor said today in a statement, expressing serious concern.

## **“It Is Apartheid”: Rights Group B’Tselem on How Israel Advances Jewish Supremacy Over Palestinians, Democracy Now, May 20, 2021**

Hagai El-Ad, executive director of the human rights group B’Tselem, describes the findings of their report that details how Israel is committing “apartheid.” Israel’s treatment of Palestinians is “not complicated,” El-Ad says. “Believe your eyes. Follow your conscience. The reason that it looks like apartheid is simply because it is apartheid.”

## **MSF team continues to be denied entry into Gaza by Israeli authorities, Doctors Without Borders, May 20, 2021**

Today an MSF team was again denied permission to cross from Israel into Gaza. We still don’t know when our team will be able to cross into Gaza to join our colleagues who are already there. The crossing points need to be reopened immediately and safe passage must be facilitated for humanitarian staff and supplies to avert a greater catastrophe.

## **The population of the Gaza Strip suffers from a 76 percent deficit in electrical supplies, due to ongoing attacks by Israeli forces, Al Mezan Center For Human Rights, May 16, 2021**

According to the available information from the GEDCO, the Israeli ongoing aggression has caused substantial damage to the electricity networks: 12 transformers, 81 high pressure network components and 281 low pressure network components have been put out of action and the cost of this damage is estimated to be \$7.33 million. As a result of this damage, 902,600 citizens in extensive areas are without any power.

## **Palestinian refugees**

### **UN reports more than 52,000 Palestinians displaced amid Israeli air strikes on Gaza, France 24, May 18, 2021**

More than 52,000 Palestinians have been displaced by Israeli air strikes that have destroyed or badly damaged nearly 450 buildings in the Gaza Strip, the U.N. aid agency said on Tuesday.

### **The ‘peaceful coexistence’ of my city of Jaffa is falling apart in front of my eyes, The Guardian, May 20, 2021**

73 years after the Nakba, the Palestinians of Jaffa are determined to prevent something similar happening again. They are inviting anyone to show solidarity and to stand with them. Those who look the other way will be remembered as accessories to these crimes.

**A Jewish case for Palestinian refugee return, The Guardian, May 18, 2021**

As fraught and imperfect as efforts at historical justice can be, consider what happens when they do not occur. The crimes of the past, when left unaddressed, do not remain in the past

**UN Relief Agency Condemns Israeli Bombing of Gaza Refugee Camp, Truth Out, May 17, 2021**

Matthias Schmale, director of UNRWA operations in Gaza, says civilians in the besieged territory are facing “terror from the skies” amid Israel’s bombardment, which has already killed nearly 200 people. “The price the civilian population is paying for this is unacceptable. This has to stop. This is terror on a civilian population.”

**UNRWA must help homeless, 'terrified, traumatized population': Gaza chief, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, May 21, 2021**

UNRWA's Gaza chief said hundreds of Gazans remain in UNRWA schools, adding that they 'are likely people who've lost their homes.

**Despite the ceasefire, Gaza’s health service is on the brink of collapse, The Guardian, May 21, 2021**

Over 42% of essential medications in Gaza are consistently depleted. There is also a critical shortage of doctors, nurses, and midwives. Those with severe illnesses that need continuing treatment, such as women with breast cancer, must pray for their exit permits to be approved so they can receive treatment in East Jerusalem. About a third never are.

**Peaceful coexistence in Israel hasn’t been – it’s always been a myth, The Guardian, May 19, 2021**

Forced displacement, confiscation of lands, an inferior juridical status and incarceration are realities shared by all Palestinians, whether “inside” Israel or in the occupied territories. It is simply wrong to claim that a pre-existing coexistence has been shattered.

**UN chief welcomes Gaza ceasefire announcement between Israel and Hamas, UN, May 20, 2021**

The UN chief has welcomed the ceasefire declared between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas, following 11 days of rocket and air attacks, which have left more than 240 reportedly dead and thousands injured, the majority in the occupied Palestinian enclave of Gaza.

### **Immediate need for food, health and psychosocial support for Palestinians sheltering at UNRWA schools in Gaza, UNRWA, May 20, 2021**

Spokesperson for UNRWA Tamara al-Rifai warns it could take years to repair the damage “Every time there is a conflict in Gaza, intense air bombardment pulverises basic infrastructure, homes, hospitals and factories,” she said, “It then takes UNRWA and aid agencies several years to rehabilitate their premises and many homes and livelihoods of Gazans are never rebuilt.”

## **Publications**

### **Jerusalem unrest exposes the brittleness of Israeli sovereignty over Palestinians, Brookings, May 12, 2021**

At the onion’s core is the continuum of Palestinian dispossession across time and space, stretching over a century and throughout historic Palestine. It is not only the dispossession of homes and of lands, but of public spaces, like Damascus Gate, and of a sense of ownership over places that mark the cultural identity of a people. That is why Jerusalem—the center of Palestinians’ and Israelis’ spiritual and political world—is such a flashpoint.

## **Events**

### **What is the current situation in Sheikh Jarrah and what is the political meaning of the current events?, ARDD, May 20, 2021**

Dr. Anis Kassim, International Lawyer and Member of the Global Network on the Question of Palestine,

Mr. Ibrahim Hussein, Journalist and Resident of Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood us in a focused discussion on current topics.

### **Teach-In: A Third Intifada? Palestinians and the Struggle for Jerusalem", Jadaliyya, May 20, 2021**

The teach-in is organized by the Center for Middle East Studies and the New Directions in Palestinian Studies Initiative at Brown University; co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, the Departments of Africana Studies, American Studies, History, and Religious Studies.

### **Recommendations for U.S. Engagement with the Int'l Criminal Court, ASIL Task Force, Apr 2021**

After more than two years combatting the Trump administration's egregious attacks on the International Criminal Court (ICC), it is refreshing to contemplate a possible return to a constructive U.S. policy toward the Court. The American Society of International Law Task Force report is a critical contribution to the discussion.

### **What's the future for Palestine?, Open Democracy, May 2021**

With growing Palestinian protests and intensifying Israeli violence, what are the future of Palestinian social and political movements and the struggle to end the occupation?

#### **Speakers:**

Isaam Adwan: Gaza project manager for 'We are Not Numbers'

Nadim Nashif: Executive director and co-founder of 7amleh - The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media

Muna Dajani: one of the people whose family house is being evacuated

Chair, Adam Ramsay: openDemocracy main site editor

### **Community Health Interventions: Perspectives from Palestine, Global Health Equity, May 17, 2021**

A panel of implementers will share their story of responding to chronic disease and mental health concerns among Palestinians residing in the West Bank. They will offer practical examples of community engagement, intervention rollout, and evaluation, as well as address the intersection of health and social justice. The aim of this webinar episode is to provide us with key learnings about how to craft and implement community health programs, specifically in conflict-affected contexts.