



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

GNQP Newsletter

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

6th 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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Top Stories:

Jerusalem: right-wing march through Old City rescheduled for next week, [Middle East Monitor](#), June 09, 2021

Israeli officials announced they will allow a far-right march through Jerusalem's Old City to go ahead next week, despite cancelling the event yesterday due to fears of renewed tension.

Former Israeli soldier breaks silence on occupation of Palestinian Territories, [France 24](#), June 09, 2021

Avner Gvanyahu, a former Israeli soldier and the executive director of Breaking the Silence, an organisation of more than 1,000 veteran Israeli soldiers who are blowing the lid off the IDF's actions against Palestinians, tells us his story and what price he has had to pay for speaking out.

US rights groups urge Biden to halt Israel arms sales, [The New Arab](#), June 09, 2021

More than a hundred humanitarian organisations published an open letter on Tuesday urging US President Joe Biden to "immediately halt" impending arms sales to Israel.

Israel says Hamas used Gaza tower that housed media as electronic warfare site, [France 24](#), June 09, 2021

Israel's military said that a tower block in Gaza housing the U.S.-based Associated Press which was destroyed in an Israeli air strike was also used by the enclave's Islamist rulers Hamas as an electronic warfare site.

For Israel's New Government, Chances at Survival Are Slim, [Real Clear World](#), June 09, 2021

Divisions exist in the right-wing between the secular and religious right, especially over the conscription exemptions for the ultra-Orthodox, that could hamper a right-wing government but wouldn't necessarily preclude one from forming.

1,500 Palestinian homes face demolition in Jerusalem's Silwan, [Middle East Monitor](#), June 09, 2021

The Al-Bustan neighbourhood in Silwan, which is south of the Old City, has 119 families in 88 buildings that are under threat of demolishment to make way for an Israeli archaeological park

Hamas, PA compete for Gaza reconstruction, [Al-Monitor](#), June 06, 2021

A new episode of Palestinian political division between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas has reared its head, this time through the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip file. Two separate committees — the first affiliated with the PA, the second with the Hamas-run Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Gaza — are working to limit the damages inflicted by the recent Israeli war on Gaza.

Israel is Journalism's No. 1 Enemy in 2021, Journalist Givara Budeiri Arrested and Deported from Jerusalem for 15 Days, [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#), June 07, 2021

PCHR points out to the escalation of the attacks on journalists in 2021 that makes IOF the number one enemy of the press during this year, particularly in occupied Jerusalem and during the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Power at any cost: how opportunistic Mansour Abbas joined hands with avowed 'Arab killers', [Middle East Monitor](#), June 06, 2021

Sadly, the unprecedented success of the Arab Joint List following the March 2020 elections has now culminated in a tragic end, where the likes of Abbas become the unwelcomed 'representative' of a politically conscious and awakened community. In truth, Mansour Abbas, a Palestinian Arab politician who is willing to find common ground with extremists and proud 'Arab killers', only represents himself. The future will attest to this claim.

Latest Developments:

Israeli troops disguised as Arabs kill 2 Palestinian security officers, fighter, [Arab News](#), June 11, 2021

Israeli troops shot and killed three Palestinians, including two security officers, in a shootout that erupted in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin during what appeared to be an Israeli arrest raid overnight, Palestinian officials said on Thursday.

Palestine's debt jumps 26% in April to \$3.7bn, [Middle East Monitor](#), June 09, 2021

The public debt amassed by the Palestinian Authority (PA) has jumped by 26 per cent to \$3.7 billion due to a combination of factors including the economic slowdown and Israel's brutal military occupation.

Democratic voters are divided on whether Biden should crack down on Israel, [*VOX*](#), June 08, 2021

After being given a short summary of how Biden responded to the crisis last month, 32 percent of Democrats say they believe “the administration should condemn Israel’s actions.” Meanwhile, 39 percent agreed “the administration has the right approach to Israel.” Only 11 percent of Democrats believe that the administration should be more supportive of Israel.

Israel: Knesset committee chaired by Arab MK stripped of its power, [*Middle East Monitor*](#), June 09, 2021

The Knesset Interior Committee, headed by Arab-Israeli MK Mansour Abbas, has been stripped of its power due to the agreement to establish a new coalition "government for change", Arab48.com reported on Tuesday.

Intel Officer Who Died in Jail Was About to Compromise 'Big Secret,' Says Israeli Army Chief, [*Haaretz*](#), June 09, 2021

Israel's army chief Aviv Kochavi said on Wednesday that the intelligence officer who died in military prison was about to compromise "a big secret," and that he was stopped "at the last minute."

Gazan women turn to social media to promote home businesses, [*Al-Monitor*](#), June 06, 2021

Amid the bad economic situation, high unemployment rates and the stifling ongoing Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip, many Gazan women have turned to social media to market their homemade products and goods.

Israeli Arab Slapped With 4-month Detention on Day of Bail Hearing, [*Haaretz*](#), June 09, 2021

Fathi Jabareen was arrested during wave of arrests that followed clashes with police in Umm al-Fahm. Order signed by Defense Minister Gantz puts him in detention until October

Israeli army shutdown of health organization will have catastrophic consequences for Palestinian healthcare, [Amnesty International](#), June 09, 2021

The Israeli authorities' decision to shut down the Palestinian Health Work Committees (HWC) will have catastrophic consequences for the health needs of Palestinians across the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), said Amnesty International.

Central Hebron: Teens from Beit Hadassah settlement stone Palestinian cars and pedestrians and swear at them, [Btselem](#), June 10, 2021

Israeli teenagers came from the settlement of Beit Hadassah to a-Shalala Street in central Hebron and climbed onto the rooftops of houses and of a bank. From there, they threw stones at the protective net that covers the street, frightened passers-by and swore at them.

Two former Israeli ambassadors to South Africa join tsunami of 'apartheid' accusations against Israel, [Mondoweiss](#), June 08, 2021

Two former Israeli ambassadors to South Africa have accused their country of practicing apartheid by creating bantustans for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. "It's apartheid, say Israeli ambassadors to South Africa," Ilan Baruch and Alon Liel write at Groundup.

Palestine municipality offers tax waivers for shops boycotting Israel products, [Middle East Monitor](#), June 10, 2021

Beitunia Municipality, one of the main Ramallah neighbourhoods, has offered tax waivers to shops that boycott Israeli products, Al-Quds Al-Arabi reported yesterday.

Powershift in Knesset: A Paradigm of Israel's Political Instability, [Modern Diplomacy](#), June 10, 2021

The irony of the situation is quite obvious – a move from one rightest to the other. A move from one unstable government to a lasting political instability in Israel.

A New Israeli Government Could Mean Help for Neglected Bedouin Villages, [NYT](#), June 10, 2021

The new government will recognize Khasham Zana and two other villages in the Negev in the first 45 days of its term, Raam said in a statement, and it will prepare a plan to deal with other unrecognized villages in the area within its first nine months in power.

Israeli police close off Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem, [Al-Monitor](#), June 10, 2021

With concrete barriers and checkpoints, Israeli forces have closed off the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem.

Israeli forces seal entrance to Palestinian village as settlers attack vehicle, [The New Arab](#), June 07, 2021

Israeli soldiers sent a military crane and large trucks loaded with cement blocks to seal the entrance to the town, according to Palestinian Authority's official news agency Wafa.

Israel shuts Palestinian archaeological site in Nablus, [Middle East Monitor](#), June 04, 2021

Sebastia's Mayor, Mohammad Azem, told Wafa news agency that a "sizable Israeli military force has raided the town, proceeded with the site closure, and prevented Palestinians from accessing it, to ensure protection of dozens of settlers who forced their way into the site."

Drug Company Executives Suspected of Bribing Aides to Former Israeli Health Minister, [Haaretz](#), June 07, 2021

Aides to Yaakov Litzman, currently housing and construction minister, are suspected of accepting bribes when he was health minister

International:

Kamala Harris Says U.S.-Israel Ties 'Will Only Grow Stronger' Under Isaac Herzog, [Newsweek](#), June 03, 2021

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris congratulated new Israeli President Isaac Herzog, saying "our relationship will only grow stronger" under his leadership.

US pledges to restock Israel's Iron Dome supply, [Middle East Monitor](#), June 05, 2021

The US administration pledged to replenish Israel's Iron Dome defence system after it was depleted during the 11-day Israeli offensive on Gaza in May, Israeli public broadcaster Kan reported on Friday.

The Complicated History Behind BLM's Solidarity With The Pro-Palestinian Movement, [NPR](#), June 12, 2021

Behind the connection between the two movements is a complicated history of a fissure among earlier generations of African American activists that helped form what Zellie Thomas, an organizer with Black Lives Matter in Paterson, N.J., calls a "Black radical tradition."

Palestinian ambassador criticises 'non-transparent' organisation of TCD event, [The Irish Times](#), June 05, 2021

The Mission of the State of Palestine in Ireland criticised the "non-transparent" organisation of an event at Trinity College Dublin which saw its ambassador appear alongside the Ambassador to Israel.

UK: Starmer calls Johnson to recognise Palestinian state, [Middle East Monitor](#), June 10, 2021

Embattled Labour leader Keir Starmer pressed on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to advocate for a Palestinian state during the upcoming G7 talks in Cornwall.

Support for Israel shifts among young US evangelical Christians, [Al-Jazeera](#), June 04, 2021

Israel's treatment of Palestinians – increasingly seen as unfair – turns younger churchgoers away from Christian Zionism.

Anti-BDS Israel advocacy group opens first Middle East office in UAE, [The New Arab](#), June 09, 2021

The New York-based American Jewish Committee (AJC) describes itself as "strengthening Israel's place in the world" and is vehemently opposed to the non-violent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Israeli cyber firm selling mobile phone spyware to Saudi Arabia: report, [The New Arab](#), June 10, 2021

Quadream, which operates from an unmarked office in Ramat Gan and has a minimal online presence, provides offensive hacking solutions that allow its clients to access mobile phones, collect data stored on the devices, and even use the phones to track and spy on individuals.

What's behind Ireland's support for Palestine?. [*Al-Jazeera*](#), Juyn 07, 2021

A shared sense of struggle underpins a bond, and after the recent conflict, Dublin has made landmark diplomatic moves against Israel.

Pro-Palestinian protesters occupy Runcorn factory roof, [*BBC*](#), June 10, 2021

Protesters have scaled the roof of an aerospace factory and daubed the building in red paint. They claim the factory produces landing gear for Elbit drones which have been used in the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

Jordan prisoner freed by Israel after 21 years in jail, [*Middle East Monitor*](#), June 08, 2021

Israeli authorities released Jordanian prisoner Abdullah Abu Jaber today, after he served 21 years in prison, according to a family member. "Abu Jaber will be taken to his residence in the Baqa'a refugee camp in the capital Amman," Mustafa Abu Jaber, an activist and a cousin of the freed prisoner, told Anadolu Agency.

Jordan's guardianship of Jerusalem's holy sites has to be questioned, [*Middle East Monitor*](#), June 10, 2021

Merely paying the wages of the security and religious endowment employees in Jerusalem is not enough to qualify Jordan to be the guardian of the holy sites.

Egypt's Coptic Church exercises soft power in Jerusalem, [*Al-Monitor*](#), June 07, 2021

Egypt seeks to strengthen its religious influence in the city of Jerusalem through the properties and endowments of the Orthodox Church in Jerusalem, and also to preserve its ownership of the properties.

Egypt abandons Palestinian reconciliation talks amid Hamas, PA dispute, [*J Post*](#), June 10, 2021

Egypt has called off Palestinian reconciliation talks amid a growing dispute between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas over Gaza reconstruction and other issues.

UAE sends 960 tonnes of urgent food, medical supplies to Gaza Strip, [Emirates News Agency](#), June

The UAE, through its humanitarian arm, the Emirates Red Crescent (ERC), sent today 960 tonnes of urgent medical and food items to alleviate the humanitarian repercussions for about 20,000 families in the Gaza Strip.

UAE leader to AJC forum: Abraham Accords show benefits of peace with Israel, [Jewish News Syndicate](#), June 09, 2021

“Science will play a much bigger role in our thinking going forward. It is only possible when you have successful technological countries, like the UAE and Israel, in the region come together,” said United Arab Emirates Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

‘Serious concerns’: UK education row as Israel-Palestine textbooks pulled, [The Guardian](#), June 08, 2021

The government has warned schools to ensure a balanced presentation of opposing views on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. But teachers may struggle to comply because the only exam board to offer curriculum material and a GCSE history option on the region has withdrawn its two textbooks after being accused of favouring the case for Israel.

Tunisian parliament to discuss criminalising normalisation with Israel, [The New Arab](#), June 07, 2021

The parliament's Committee on Rights, Freedoms and Foreign Relations will debate criminalising normalisation with Israel.

Palestinian refugees:

Russian diplomat, UNRWA commissioner-general discuss urgent aid for Palestine, [TASS](#), June 10, 2021

They discussed in detail the issues of providing urgent assistance to those affected and in need, ensuring unhampered humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip, and the goals of restoring key civilian infrastructure facilities," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The neutrality and inviolability of UNRWA installations must be respected at all times, [UNRWA](#), June 04, 2021

UNRWA is deeply concerned about actions by parties to the conflict during recent hostilities in Gaza that caused damage to its installations and violated its inviolability and neutrality.

Emergency recollections: Palestine refugees recount their survival stories, [UNRWA](#), June 05, 2021

“When the war was over and a ceasefire declared, we went back to our home. It was completely levelled to the ground. Then, my children started crying. Maya said that all her toys were dead like the bodies in the ambulance. My children were asking me all the time to go back to the school, fearing that the bombing would happen again,” she said.

Publications:

Why the U.S. Should End Its Unconditional Military Aid to Israel, [Democracy for Middle East Now](#), June 09, 2021

What will billions more of American military aid—all unconditionally granted, no matter Israel's human rights record—accomplish in the years to come? It will only lead to more violations of America's own human rights obligations as codified under existing U.S. law, while continually undermining America's interests and position in the Middle East.

Palestinian Representation in the Knesset, [Palijourneys](#), June 08, 2021

the Knesset has passed several amendments aimed at restricting the representation of Palestinian Arabs who are citizens of the State of Israel, such as the amendment that ensures the exclusion of Arab electoral candidates, and the amendment that allows the Knesset, in some cases, to dismiss its Arab members.

What happened in the 'torture room' at Israel's police station in Nazareth?, [Adalah](#), June 07, 2021

Multiple sworn affidavits from the past few weeks testify to rampant, systemic Israeli police attacks and brutal beatings of Palestinian citizens of Israel – protesters, minors, innocent bystanders, and even attorneys – inside the city's police station; floor of 'torture room' was covered in blood from violent police beatings.

Events:

In conversation with Ambassador Husam Zomlot, Chatham House, June 15, 2021

The Palestinian ambassador to the United Kingdom, HE Dr Husam Zomlot, shares his perspectives on the implications of the recent conflict for Israeli-Palestinian relations going forward.

Israel-Palestine: Where is the UN?, Humanitarian And Conflict Response Institute, June 15, 2021

Roundtable 1:

Suhad Bishara: Senior lawyer in Israel, and director of the Land and Planning Rights Unit at Adalah, the Arab Center for Minority Rights in Israel.

Diana Buttu: Palestinian-Canadian lawyer. She was a legal adviser to the PLO and participant in the peace negotiations.

Michael Lynk: UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights Situation in the Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967, and associate professor of law at University of Western Ontario.

Raji Sourani: Human rights lawyer in the Gaza Strip, and director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza City.

Roundtable 2:

Valentina Azarova: Research fellow at the International Law Centre, University of Manchester; and a founding member of the Global Legal Action Network (GLAN).

Katherine Gallagher: Senior staff attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, NYC, USA.

Ardi Imseis: Assistant professor of law at Queen's University, Canada.

Shawan Jabarin: Human rights lawyer based in Ramallah, and general director of Al-Haq.

Gaza Reconstruction: More than a Humanitarian Project, Foundation For Middle East Peace, June 15, 2021

Join FMEP to discuss what Gaza truly needs, and how the political agendas of international donors and Israeli restrictions have, in the past, sabotaged efforts not only to restore, but also to meaningfully improve, life in the Gaza Strip.

Palestine and the Decolonising of UK Academia, Standing Seminar in Critical Theory, June 25, 2021



At present, the UK government is striving to impose the widely discredited IHRA definition of antisemitism on English universities. Given that this definition indicates boundaries for the articulation of Palestinians' experience of systemic racist violence by the Israeli state, how should those concerned with decolonization of the academy respond?

Three Palestinian scholars from universities across the UK will engage with such questions before opening the event up for question and answer with the audience.

Panelists:

Dr Mezna Qato (Cambridge);

Dr Malaka Shwaikh (St Andrews);

Dr Mohammed Alruzzi (Bath);

Dr Jason Hart (Bath) as facilitator and chair.