



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

## **GNQP Newsletter**

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

*7th 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:

### **Palestinians Call Off Deal to Get 1M Vaccines From Israel Hours After News of Agreement, [Newsweek](#), June 18, 2021**

"This is not an agreement with Israel but with the Pfizer company," Palestinian Health Minister Mai Alkaila said Friday before the deal was called off. Palestinian officials found that the doses were nearly expired and "did not meet standards and so we decided to return them," according to Alkaila.

### **Israeli Soldiers Photographed Helping Build Illegal West Bank Outpost, [Haaretz](#), June 11, 2021**

Images obtained by Haaretz show Israeli troops assisting in Evyatar, an illegal outpost slated for evacuation ■ IDF: The soldiers acted without authorization, matter will be investigated.

### **New ICC prosecutor Karim Khan promises to build 'stronger cases', [Al-Jazeera](#), June 16, 2021**

British barrister Karim Khan took over as the International Criminal Court's top prosecutor on Wednesday with a pledge to improve its track record by taking only its strongest cases to trial.

### **British backing for Israel helps to sustain the unbearable status quo, [The Guardian](#), June 13, 2021**

Diplomatic and military support – and a thriving arms trade – make the UK complicit in the oppression of Palestinians

### **Hamas appoints new prime minister in Gaza, [J Post](#), June 13, 2021**

The Hamas announcement came shortly after Egypt decided to call off a meeting of Palestinian factions in Cairo to discuss the formation of a Palestinian unity government

### **Palestinian advocacy groups drew tens of thousands of new followers on social media. But can they move that support offline?, [Forward](#), June 14, 2021**



For Ben Daniel, it's a bit more complex. "It's hard that our growth coincided with this very intense period of suffering specifically for Palestinians," she said. "That's a contradiction we're really holding."

### **The American Jewish Left's Untimely Abandonment of Israel's Leftists, [Haaretz](#), June 14, 2021**

Self-absorbed, sanctimonious and often superficial, the American Jewish left is alienated from the real-life struggle for justice in Israel and Palestine. And its refusal to engage with the Jews and Arabs of the Israeli left has never been more hurtful, or harmful

### **TikTok Hires Israeli Lobbyist After Israeli-Palestinian Violence Goes Viral, [Haaretz](#), June 17, 2021**

Israel's lobbying industry had a dramatic week. The website of a prominent lobbying firm involved in a corruption scandal was taken down and TikTok, the company behind the eponymous popular social media platform, has decided to hire a local lobbyist.

## **Latest Developments:**

### **Palestinians injured after Israeli forces storm Al-Aqsa compound during Prophet Muhammad rally, [Al-Araby Al-Jadeed](#), June 18, 2021**

As Palestinians rallied in the mosque's courtyard holding up flags, Israeli forces stormed the compound firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades, emptying the compound of thousands of worshippers.

### **Netanyahu 'illegally' shredded documents before Bennett takeover, [The New Arab](#), June 17, 2021**

Netanyahu ordered staff at the Prime Minister's Office to illegally shred documents before Naftali Bennett took over, Haaretz reported.

### **Israeli bombs ignite pesticide stores, spew dangerous chemicals in Gaza, [Al-Monitor](#), June 14, 2021**

Saadi called for an urgent international probe to assess the damage to the polluted areas, saying that due to the blockade, Gaza does not have the necessary equipment to do so.

## **Palestinian Christians issue historic ‘Statement of Repentance and Hope’, [Mondoweiss](#), June 16, 2021**

Palestinian Christians are calling on community leadership to reflect on their failure to support the broader Palestinian uprising, and to "stand up for our own dignity and the dignity of those we share our lives and pain with."

## **How these Palestinians thwarted settlers in northern West Bank, [Al-Monitor](#), June 12, 2021**

The Palestinian residents of Beita in the northern West Bank have held off settlers who tried for the fourth time to establish an outpost on the top of a strategic mount near their town.

## **Palestinian businessman: PA wants to arrest me because of a Facebook post, [J Post](#), June 13, 2021**

Badran Jbara, 60, from the town of Turmus Aiya, north of Ramallah, told The Jerusalem Post he was afraid for his life and would not attend his daughter's wedding. Several Palestinian intelligence officers raided his home in Turmus Aiya early Sunday morning in an attempt to arrest him, he said.

## **Palestinian Authority: This is not a gov't of change, [J Post](#), June 14, 2021**

The Palestinians do not expect a change in Israel's policies, the PA Foreign Ministry said in a statement shortly after the new government was sworn in on Sunday evening.

## **Poll: 43% of Israelis believe new government will fail, [Middle East Monitor](#), June 14, 2021**

The Channel 12 poll showed that 43 per cent of Israelis do not believe this government will complete its term. Only 11 per cent believe it will complete four years.

## **Israeli preparing 'Abraham Accords' anniversary summit in bid to push further normalisation deals: reports, [The New Arab](#), June 15, 2021**

The summit will reportedly take place within the next three months in a bid to push other Arab states to normalise with Israel.

## **Former Attorney General Discovers Settler Group Took Over His Family's Sheikh Jarrah Home, [Haaretz](#), June 15, 2021**



Michael Ben-Yair was surprised to find that a religious nonprofit group had charged Palestinians living in his grandmother's East Jerusalem house hundreds of thousands of shekels in rent, with the approval of a rabbinical court. His legal journey to reclaim the home reveals the settlers' modus operandi in their drive to 'Judaize' Sheikh Jarrah

**New coalition unable to extend ban on Palestinian family reunification, [\*Times of Israel\*](#), June 17, 2021**

In bid to embarrass new government, opposition parties refuse to vote for law even though they support it; Ra'am opposes it and won't vote with coalition partners

**Gaza recycles rubble as Israel upholds ban on construction goods, [\*Al-Jazeera\*](#), June 17, 2021**

Israel bans more than 1,000 'dual-usage' construction materials, leaving Palestinians to repurpose debris for rebuilding.

**After Netanyahu, Israel's Bennett revives paralyzed security Cabinet, [\*Al-Monitor\*](#), Jun 17, 2021**

Contrary to former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who sidelined and paralyzed the security Cabinet, Israel's new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett turns it back into an essential link within the decision-making process.

**Israel: far-right 'plays politics' with apartheid law to embarrass government, [\*Middle East Monitor\*](#), June 17, 2021**

Far-right opposition parties in Israel have claimed victory after embarrassing the new coalition government by ensuring that it failed to extend an apartheid law barring Palestinian family reunification.

**Israeli Police Arrest Imam of Lod's Largest Mosque for Incitement on Social Media, [\*Haaretz\*](#), June 17, 2021**

Sheikh Yusuf Albaz, whose city saw severe Jewish-Arab violence last month, was arrested following a Facebook post in which he included a link to a video that allegedly encourages attacks on the police.

## **International:**

### **Biden congratulates Israel's incoming PM Naftali Bennett, vows support for 'Israelis, Palestinians', [\*FOX NEWS\*](#), June 13, 2021**

The "United States remains unwavering in its support for Israel's security," Biden said in a statement addressed to Bennett and other members of his incoming cabinet. "My administration is fully committed to working with the new Israeli government to advance security, stability, and peace for Israelis, Palestinians, and people throughout the broader region."

### **UK lists 'occupied Palestinian territories' instead of Jerusalem on passport, [\*Middle East Monitor\*](#), June 6, 2021**

A dual British-Israeli national has had her place of birth listed as the "Occupied Palestinian Territories" after she renewed her UK travel document, Haaretz reports. Her previous passport listed her place of birth as Jerusalem. Kan said it reached out to the Israeli Foreign Ministry who said they were 'investigating the incident', while the British embassy in Israel did not respond.

### **Husam Zomlot: Palestinian ambassador to UK disappointed with Labour response to Gaza bombing, [\*Middle East Eye\*](#), June 17, 2021**

Palestinians were let down by the Labour Party's response to the recent Israeli bombing of Gaza, Husam Zomlot, head of the Palestine mission to the UK, told Middle East Eye. "We expected more of our friends in the Labour Party," he said.

### **UK MPs debate Palestinian statehood, sanctions against Israel, [\*Arab News\*](#), June 14, 2021**

British MPs on Monday debated implementing two petitions that call for economic sanctions against Israel and for the UK government to recognize the State of Palestine. The petitions garnered over 100,000 signatures each, which according to British law means they must be considered for debate in Parliament.

### **Biden names Tom Nides, a former top Obama State Department official, as ambassador to Israel, [\*Forward\*](#), June 15, 2021**

Nides, a banker, was the deputy secretary of state for management and resources from 2011 to 2013 and had good relations with Israeli diplomats, although he was less involved in substantive diplomacy.

### **Israeli Military Chief Set for First Official U.S. Visit, to Meet Top Defense Officials, [\*Haaretz\*](#), June 17, 2021**

Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi is expected to meet with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin as well as other U.S. officials

### **US official says Trump recognition of Golan as Israeli territory remains unchanged, [\*Al-Monitor\*](#), June 17, 2021**

The US ambassador to the United Nations said Wednesday that the Biden administration has not changed the Trump administration's recognition of Israeli sovereignty in the Golan Heights and is still working on the issue.

### **Progressives Back Ilhan Omar After “Bad Faith” Attack by House Democrats, [\*Truthout\*](#), June 11, 2021**

Omar first came under fire from fellow Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday, when a dozen moderate representatives issued a statement accusing her of “equating the United States and Israel to Hamas and the Taliban,” displaying “deep-seated prejudice,” and giving “cover to terrorist groups.”

### **White House promises to hire a Jewish liaison after Jewish groups left out of Israel briefing, [\*Forward\*](#), June 11, 2021**

The absences from the June 4 call with Antony Blinken was the latest incidence of what Jewish leaders are privately calling a surprising tone-deafness for an administration led by President Joe Biden, whose ties with the organized Jewish community go back decades. The absence from the call of the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements, each with deep ties to Israel and long histories of seeking to influence peacemaking in the region, particularly rankled.

### **Can Bennett stand up to US on settlements, Palestinian state?, [\*J Post\*](#), June 14, 2021**

It's not an idle line. The phrase was also written into the coalition agreement between his Yamina Party and that of Yesh Atid. It was a statement designed to sound to the Israeli Right as if prolonged battle for Israeli control of Area C, that has involved settlement building and the demolition of illegal Palestinian construction, and would continue under the new coalition composed of right-wing, centrist and left-wing parties.

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

"What we're seeing right now is nothing new," says Thomas, who leads a local chapter of the decentralized movement for Black lives that echoes prior advocacy for Palestinian rights by the Black Panther Party and Angela Davis.

### **Black Lives Matter protesters make Palestinian struggle their own, [The Guardian](#), June 16, 2021**

The New York state senator Jabari Brisport from Brooklyn addressed the crowd in a fervent speech: "Whether it's in Astoria, whether it's in Brooklyn, whether it's in Ferguson, whether it's in the West Bank, we say: 'Hell, no.' The choice is made to spend money not on schools, not on housing, not on healthcare, not on transportation, not on childcare, but on oppressing marginalized people."

### **Netanyahu Was Involved in Saudi-U.S. Campaign to Undermine Jordan's King Abdullah, Report Says, [Haaretz](#), June 12, 2021**

In the Washington Post, David Ignatius writes that alleged April coup attempt on the Jordanian king was connected to U.S., Saudi and Israeli efforts to undermine the monarch's position on Jerusalem's holy sites

### **Did the Latest Israel-Hamas Round of Fighting Increase Criticism of Israel?, [Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies](#), June 13, 2021**

The visibility of pro-Palestinian protesters during the recent Israel-Hamas conflict, especially in the US, gave the impression that the delegitimization of Israel has reached new heights. An analysis of Google Trends indicates otherwise.

### **ZARA designer head's anti-Muslim, anti-Palestine remarks cause uproar, [The Express Tribune](#), June 14, 2021**



Vanessa Perilman, the head designer for Zara's women's department, allegedly made the controversial comments in a message responding to pro-Palestine posts by a model who later shared Perilman's message on Instagram. "Maybe if your people were educated, they wouldn't blow up hospitals and schools that Israel helped to pay for in Gaza," Perilman allegedly wrote to Qaher Harhash, a Palestinian model from occupied east Jerusalem.

### **Fashion retailer Zara condemns anti-Palestinian comments made by designer, [\*NBC News\*](#), June 18, 2021**

Fashion retailer Zara on Tuesday condemned anti-Palestinian comments made by one of its senior designers after the remarks spurred calls for a boycott of the Spanish apparel line on social media.

### **Moroccan king congratulates Israel's new prime minister, [\*Al-Jazeera\*](#), June 17, 2021**

Message to Naftali Bennett from King Mohammed VI comes as the leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, visits Morocco for meetings.

### **Bahrain and UAE congratulate newly formed Israeli government, [\*New Arab\*](#), June 14, 2021**

Bahrain's crown prince sent a congratulatory telegraph to new Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. Meanwhile, the UAE's foreign minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed discussed in a phone call with his Israeli counterpart "the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in addition to the Abraham Accords," the minister's office tweeted on Monday.

### **Israel keen to establish ties with southeast Asia's Muslim nations — envoy, [\*Arab News\*](#), June 17, 2021**

Israel is willing to work toward establishing ties with southeast Asia's Muslim majority nations, its ambassador to Singapore said on Thursday, despite their condemnation in May of Israeli air strikes on Gaza.

### **Sudan disappointed with outcomes of ties with Israel, [\*Middle East Monitor\*](#), June 17, 2021**

The channel quoted Sudanese officials as saying that the US has not yet fulfilled the promise to invest in Sudan, as it pledged during the announcement of normalising relations with Israel nine months ago.

## **Palestinian refugees:**

### **Safadi, Lazzarini discuss preparations for international conference on UNRWA, *The Jordan Times*, June 15, 2021**

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi and Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Philippe Lazzarini on Monday discussed preparations for the international conference that the Kingdom and Sweden will organise in cooperation with the agency to rally financial and political support for UNRWA.

### **Syria: UNRWA - Humanitarian Snapshot, *UNRWA*, June 15, 2021**

Food baskets and non- food items were distributed to Palestine refugees living in Yarmouk. A total of 827 persons (about 243 households) benefited from the intervention, which was conducted while maintaining the necessary mitigation measures (physical distancing and healthy hygiene practices) to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

### **The European Union supports UNRWA Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 in the occupied West Bank, *UNRWA*, June 10, 2021**

These prevention measures and the continued provision of health services to Palestine refugees would not have been so successful without the generous support provided by the European Union (EU) to UNRWA during the first months of the COVID-19 outbreak.

## **Publications:**

### **Israel's halting of mail delivery from/to Gaza unacceptable collective punishment, *EURO-MED*, June 17, 2021**

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor submitted an official complaint to the universal postal union regarding Israel's recent imposition of more draconian restrictions on the besieged Gaza Strip that brought postal services to an abrupt halt.

## Events:

### **Liberating Farming, Agriculture for Liberation, *Palestine Studies*, June 25, 2021**

We hope that this webinar will inspire more Palestinians to think through farming practices as a precursor for food security that can be considered a step towards liberation and a central concern for radical, social justice education in support of the Palestinian liberation movement.

#### Panelists:

- **Saad Dagher:** A Palestinian farmer, Dagher studied agricultural sciences in Russia and in 1996 he started his first experiment in agro-ecology in Palestine.
- **Vivian Sansour:** An artist, storyteller, researcher, and conservationist, Sansour uses images, sketches, film, soil, seeds, and plants to revive old stories in contemporary presentations, and to advocate for seed conservation and the protection of agrobiodiversity as a cultural/political act.
- **Mohammed Abujayyab:** is a Palestinian American activist who grew up in Al-Maghazi Refugee Camp in the Gaza Strip to a peasant family that was displaced by Zionist forces in 1948.
- **Serene Huleileh:** Cultural activist, researcher, translator, and a founding member of the Arab Education Forum since 2000.

### **From Sheikh Jarrah to Gaza: The Enduring Palestinian Refugee Crisis, *MIRR Alliance and the Green Olive Collective*, July, 14, 2021**

Join Yahav Zohar and Mohammad Barakat, two Jerusalemites and working partners in the Green Olive Collective, for a special webinar to discuss the complex issue of refugees in Israel-Palestine.

### **The Palestinian Right of Return, *CPT Action*, June 24, 2021**

Thousands of Palestinians who call Jerusalem home, today live under the threat of ethnic cleansing through forced displacement, while Jewish people who have no origins in Palestinian cities can live wherever they like.

#### Panelists:



- **Lubnah Shomali:** Advocacy Manager at BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
- **Bilal Al-Issa:** Palestinian, born in Lebanon, and raised in Denmark.