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النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

ARDD

للعربية

The Question of Palestine Newsletter 6th Edition, July 2020



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Forward

In October 2018, the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) inaugurated a major three-year initiative on “The Question of Palestine 70 Years On: Priorities for Action” which aims to foster new, innovative thinking into discourse around the unresolved Israeli-

Palestinian conflict. The Global Network of Experts on the Question of Palestine (GNQP) – established by ARDD as part of this initiative – employs various avenues of coordination in order to serve as a platform for enhancing and expanding substantial discourse on the question of Palestine from a human rights based approach.

In this edition

Since the last newsletter, the world was shaken by the novel COVID-19 virus. **As of 12 July**, there are more than 6158 confirmed cases in the West Bank and 72 confirmed cases in Gaza. Among Palestinian refugees in the UNRWA areas of operation, 724 cases were registered until 11 July. In the past weeks, the West Bank (as well as Israel) has seen a significant **rise** in cases and as a consequence, the state of emergency was extended for another 30 days. Concerns were in particular high for the situation in the overcrowded Palestinian refugee camps in the region and especially in Gaza, as the densely inhabited strip faced major humanitarian challenges due to the siege are currently exacerbated by the health crisis. In the West Bank, **a rise in Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians** and their properties was reported amidst the pandemic. Simultaneously, Israel did not hesitate to advance planning of the implementation of the US Administration's Peace to Prosperity Plan or "Deal of the Century". As such, Israel announced the implementation of the **annexation of considerable parts of the West Bank starting from 1 July 2020**. Meanwhile, despite the rapidly spreading virus, house evictions and demolitions took frequently place displacing entire Palestinian families. In response to the evolving events, the GNQP actively published and shared their knowledge and analysis through different channels.

The 6th edition of ARDD's quarterly newsletter on the Question of Palestine – through a selection of articles, reports and testimonials – showcases information and news from our experts, relevant institutions, and reporters tackling Palestinian issues and aims to raise awareness about the conflict's background in order to conduct meaningful dialogue about Palestinian identity and future policy.

GNQP Efforts

The COVID-19 pandemic serves to reflect on the cost of systematic oppression: although the virus is said to not discriminate, the socio-political conditions of an individual define the degree of vulnerability in face of a health crisis and the consequential economic implications. Members of the GNQP actively monitored - and continue to do so - how COVID-19 affected the Question of Palestine and issued three position papers:

The [first position paper](#) sheds light on the situation for Palestinians under occupation in times of COVID-19. This paper was launched on the 72nd Anniversary of Al Nakba Day and denounces the continuous Israeli violations against and negligence of obligations toward Palestinians under international law. The [second position paper](#) focused on the impact of COVID-19 on Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestine territory and Syria, analysing how the virus combined with their distinct refugee status puts them at significant risk of infection in the overcrowded camps. Moreover, Palestinian refugees are often limited in accessing health care due to marginalizing laws and policies. The [third position paper](#) addresses the various developments – including those with regard to Jordan – related to the impending annexation plan of 30% of the West Bank, encompassing the Jewish settlements and the Jordan Valley. German newspaper [Der Freitag](#), and later [Mondoweiss](#), published an article based on the position paper with regard to the consequences of the annexation for Jordan. The implementation of this activity is a result of the “Deal of the Century” that the GNQP condemned in its [latest statement](#).

Coverage by GNQP members:



Dr. Salman Abu Sitta's Atlas of Palestine 1871-1877: “This is Arab Palestine, before the Zionist colonisation” with 500 maps in colour and with 13,000 place names was recently published by the

Palestine Land Society. For orders, contact info@plands.org. 09.07.2020

Mouin Rabbani provided an analysis on the planned Israeli annexation in an article for [Jadaliyya](#). 04.07.2020

Lubnah Shomali and Nidal Al-Azzah from BADIL published a [joint statement](#) from Palestinian Civil Society on the Present-day Israeli Annexation: the Culmination of Israeli Displacement, Colonization, and Apartheid 26.06.2020

The book “Palestinian Refugees in International Law” (second edition) authored by Francesca P. Albanese and Dr. Lex Takkenberg, published by Oxford University Press, can now be ordered [here](#). For the launch of the book, the authors were [interviewed](#) by Chris Gunness. 09.06.2020

Dr. Riccardo Bocco published a [commentary](#) for the Graduate Institute Center titled “The Pandemic, the American ‘Peace Plan’ and (what is left of) Palestine.” 20.05.2020

An [interview](#) on the annexation plans for the West Bank with Dr. Riccardo Bocco appeared in the Swiss newspaper *Le Temps*. 19.05.2020

Anne Irfan published an [article on COVID-19 in the Palestinian refugee camps](#) for the Refugee Studies Centre (Oxford University). 12.05.2020

Victor Kattan published two opinion articles on annexation in the [South China Morning Post](#) and [Haaretz](#). 29.04.2020 and 09.06.2020

ARDD's Efforts

As part of "Voices and Future of Refugee Youth from and in the Arab World" week, on the occasion of World Refugee Day, ARDD published its newest study on Palestinian refugee youth: "[Voices of Palestinian Refugee Youth across the Near East: Socio-Political Participation and Aspirations](#)." The study sheds new light on Palestinians by focusing on a usually politically marginalized segment of the communities: refugee

youth from Jordan, Lebanon, occupied Palestinian territory and Syria. Their perceptions and aspirations about their status within communities and within host societies, as well as about their future, are important albeit often muted. Based on the findings, ARDD compiled a policy brief (to be published soon) titled “Enabling Social and Political Participation of Palestinian Refugee Youth,” written under the assumption that efforts to improve the economic marginalization of Palestinian refugee youth must underpin programmatic initiatives regarding political participation efforts, as decent livelihoods lay at the basis of youth’s future in their communities and the region.

Consistent violence by Israeli forces against Palestinians has caused the death of [Eyad Hallaq](#), a 32-year-old unarmed Palestinian with autism. His death, in light of current debate around [Black Lives Matter](#), exposed and sparked debate on the apartheid regime institutionalized by Israel and the injustices toward Palestinians that this system enables. In response, ARDD started a [petition](#) on behalf of civil society calling for solidarity with the victims of racism.

On Sunday 21 June, ARDD held an interactive dialogue in a special World Refugee Day edition of #AINahdaYouth sessions, titled “[Refugee Youth Voices: Challenges and Aspirations](#),” whose speakers represented Syrian, Somali and Palestinian refugee communities in different regions in Jordan. The session offered an insight into the intricacies of refugee experiences and revealed common aspirations and priorities youth have for the future. Also, ARDD, founding member and coordinator of the Jordanian National NGOs Forum (JONAF), signed a [memorandum of cooperation between ARDD and the Palestinian NGO Network](#) (PNGO). This agreement aims to enhance the exchange of experiences between JONAF and PNGO, in particular in coordinating COVID-19 response initiatives.

Coverage on UNRWA

**UNRWA 2019 Annual
Operational Report
available.** [more 23.06.2020](#)



[More](#)



UNRWA publishes Rapid COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Survey. [more 12.06.2020](#)

[More](#)



Decentralized evaluation of UNRWA support to Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon.

[more 21.05.2020](#)

[More](#)



UNRWA helping Palestine Refugees get back on their feet after home demolitions.

[more 13.05.2020](#)

[More](#)



Updated UNRWA flash appeal for the covid-19 response. [more](#) 08.05.2020

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For all information, press releases, and stories regarding UNRWA, visit the Newsroom [@UNRWA website](#).

[Palestine's latest news and updates overview](#)

Electronic Intifada's Palestine in Pictures Series
[June 2020](#)



May 2020



April 2020



Podcast with Mariam Barghouti and Salem Barahmeh: What would annexation of parts of the West Bank mean for Palestinians? [Listen here.](#) 10.07.2020



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UN: 90 Palestinians homeless as Israel demolishes 70 buildings in 2 weeks. [more](#) 22.06.2020



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UN experts call on the international community to ensure accountability – Israeli annexation of parts of the Palestinian West Bank would break international law. [more](#) 16.06.2020



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European Court of Human Rights deals major blow to Israel's war on Palestine solidarity. [more](#) 11.06.2020



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Jordan's Catch-22: Israel's latest annexation plans present an impossible choice for Jordan, the Middle East's anchor of stability. [more](#) 08.06.2020



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Who matters? Pandemic in a time of structural violence. [more](#) 05.05.2020



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Settler attacks rise by 78 percent amid pandemic.

[more 11.04.2020](#)



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Dispatch #5 from Palestine on COVID-19, curfews and mutual aid. [more 02.04.2020](#)



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Packed with refugees, Palestinian camps face grave threat if Coronavirus spreads. [more](#) 02.04.2020



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Multimedia

Youth Voices in Palestine Oppose Racism, Which is an Obstacle to Realizing their Dreams



وسافرنا للعديد من البلدان، كالأردن، وسوريا، والعراق على سبيل المثال.

Samah, Bayan, and Dania are refugees who have ambitions, hopes They demand their rights, while suffering under the apartheid regime and discrimination...They demand their rights and the freedom of the Palestinian people as a whole.

A Message of solidarity on the 72 Anniversary of Al Nakba Day

A Message of Solidarity on the 72nd Anniversary of Al Nakba Day

The Global Network of Experts on the Question of Palestine at The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) sent a message of solidarity on the 72nd anniversary of Al Nakba Day in the form of a position paper denouncing Israeli violations amid the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and showcasing their impact on the conditions of Palestinians under the Israeli occupation in the Gaza

Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

What the media don't show us - No to Annexation!



Palestinian youth in Ramallah- raising their voices loud and clear to oppose the Israeli measures and say "No to Annexation"



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