**NGO ACTION NEWS**

**December 16, 2016**

https://unispal.un.org/ngoactionnews.nsf/1c0b3ab87dc4f2f8852568f8007759fd/90991c00022115558525808b007d5154?OpenDocument

**Middle East**

On 19 January 2017, the Arab Centre for the Advancement of Social Media will hold the [Palestine Digital Activism Forum](http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e5414f2d143b501b653ad8d5f&id=f4827030b5&e=7c3f9cedbf) at the Red Crescent Society Hotel in Al Bireh/Ramallah.

According to an [opinion poll](http://www.pcpsr.org/sites/default/files/poll%2062%20press%20release%20December%202016%20English.pdf) conducted in the West Bank and Gaza by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research between 8 and 10 December, the public perception that the two-State solution is no longer viable significantly increased during the last quarter of 2016, probably due to a rise in settlement activity during that period.

**Europe**

Medical Aid for Palestine opened registration for the [Cycle for Palestine](https://webmail05.un.org/mail/npalesti.nsf?OpenDatabase) bike ride from London to Glasgow, scheduled to take place from 4 to 9 July 2017.

On 8 December, numerous [European legal scholars](https://bdsmovement.net/news/statement-european-legal-scholars-defending-right-support-bds-palestinian-rights) issued a statement to defend the right to support BDS as a lawful exercise of freedom of expression, criticizing legislative measures to outlaw the movement.

In November, over 100 trade union delegates from all over Europe launched in Brussels the [European Trade Union Initiative for Justice in Palestine](http://www.eccpalestine.org/european-trade-union-initiative-for-justice-in-palestine/) which seeks to strengthen ties between the Palestinian labour movement and European trade unions.

On 22 November, the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies of the Fundación Promoción Social de la Cultura (FPSC) organized in Madrid a seminar on “The [participation of women in water access and management](http://www.fundacionfpsc.org/eng/index.php?idAct=1238&sec=68): the case of Palestine", funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

**North America**

Registration opened for [J Street’s national conference](http://jstreet.org/conference/) (“Defending our Values – Fighting for Our Future”), scheduled to take place from 25 to 28 February 2017 in Washington D.C.

To mark International Human Rights Day on 10 December, Defence for Children International- Palestine and the American Friends Service Committee collected as part of their [“No Way to Treat a Child”](http://nwttac.dci-palestine.org/petition_stop_israeli_military_detention?utm_campaign=12_10nwpetition&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dcipalestine) campaign signatures for a petition urging the US Secretary of State to hold Israeli authorities accountable for human rights violations against Palestinian child detainees.

**Latin America**

On 6 December, the University of São Paolo organized in collaboration with Middle East Monitor a conference entitled “[Brazilian Perspectives on Palestine](http://commonactionforum.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/20161117_Brazilian-Perspectives-on-Palestine.pdf) in a Changing Middle East”.

**Australia**

From 19 December until Christmas Eve, the Australian Friends for Palestine Association (AFOPA) is organizing a [Christmas Sale](http://palestinecenterforpeace.com.au/) at the Palestine Centre for Peace in Adelaide of food products, ceramics, glass and hand-made olive wood decoration from Palestine.

**United Nations**

As part of its Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin, on 13 December, UN OCHA presented the first in a series of articles on the [de facto expansion of settlements](http://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-impact-de-facto-settlement-expansion-case-asfar) and its humanitarian impact on Palestinian communities, featuring the case of Asfar settlement in the Hebron governorate.

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