**NGO ACTION NEWS**

**December 9, 2016**

https://unispal.un.org/ngoactionnews.nsf/1c0b3ab87dc4f2f8852568f8007759fd/0bdef05862b45dd085258084007967d4?OpenDocument

**Middle East**

To mark the [International Human Rights Defenders Day](http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/targets/third-party-states/1090-call-for-protection-of-human-rights-defenders-working-on-issues-related-to-palestine) on 9 December, several organizations including Al-Haq, the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) issued a joint statement calling for protection of human rights defenders working on issues related to Palestine.

To promote understanding of the current situation in Gaza and the impact of the blockade, on 8 December, Gisha-Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement announced a new site featuring a photo visit to Gaza entitled [“Gaza Up Close”.](http://features.gisha.org/gaza-up-close/)

On 5 December, [World Council of Churches](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/general-secretary/statement-on-detention-and-deportation-of-wcc-associate-general-secretary) (WCC) Associate Secretary-General Isabel Phiri from Malawi was interrogated and deported upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. The only member to be denied entry, Prof. Phiri was part of a WCC delegation travelling to Jerusalem for consultations about its Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). According to media, Israeli authorities cited support of BDS and anti-Israeli activities by EAPPI volunteers as reasons for the refusal.

On 5 December, [B’Tselem](http://www.btselem.org/) launched a new report entitled “Expel and Exploit. The Israeli Practice of Taking over Rural Palestinian Land”.

On 3 December, Addameer and other Palestinian organizations released a joint report providing statistics on arrests carried out by Israeli forces in the OPT during November and setting out concerns regarding the treatment of Palestinian detainees. In addition, a new video released by the NGO on the arrest and detention of minors from East Jerusalem can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uDPeeD_RPk>.

**Europe**

On 7 December**,** the Electronic Intifada reported that, citing freedom of speech, the Dutch government had rejected calls to cease funding organizations supporting BDS.

**North America**

On 1 December, [Jewish Voice for Peace](https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/instead-fighting-antisemitism-new-senate-bill-threatens-free-speech/), Palestine Legal and the Friends Committee on National Legislation expressed concern about a new bill (Anti-Semitism Awareness Act) passed in the U.S. Senate, claiming it threatened free speech with regard to criticism of Israeli policies on college campuses.

On 1 December, [Churches for Middle East Peace](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5575/p/dia/action3/common/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=23855) (CMEP) launched a letter writing campaign calling members to ask their representatives in Congress to tell U.S. President Obama to support a UN Security Council resolution confirming the illegality of settlements.

**United Nations**

In December, [UN Women](http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20palestine/attachments/publications/2016/in%20the%20absence%20of%20justice_report.pdf?v=1&d=20161204T175958) released a new report examining socio-political factors impacting the access of Palestinian women to justice in East Jerusalem (“In the Absence of Justice: Embodiment and the Politics of Militarized Dismemberment in Occupied East Jerusalem”).

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