NGO Action News

June 23, 2017

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**NGO ACTION NEWS**

**Global**

On 20 June, [BADIL](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_InterRefugDy2016E.pdf) Resource Center for Palestinian Residency & Refugee Rights shared the data published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) to mark World Refugee Day. In the United Kingdom, both the [Palestinian Return Centre](http://www.prc.org.uk/portal/index.php/faq/key-facts/3709-it%E2%80%99s-time-to-address-the-palestinian-refugee-problem-that-israel-created) and [Medical Aid for Palestinians](https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/680-world-refugee-day-2017-marking-the-worldas-oldest-refugee-crisis) issued statements.

**Middle East**

[· Gush Shalom](http://zope.gush-shalom.org/home/en/events/1464389870) reported that Israeli activists will be holding protest vigils in solidarity with the people of Gaza during the ongoing electricity crisis. On June 19, the group launched 150 paper lanterns with candles to illuminate the sky near the Gaza border; further action was planned on 23 June.

Citing unconfirmed press reports, on 22 June, [Ir Amin](http://www.altro.co.il/newsletters/show/10084?key=8a06b58053ef8aeb50c204e74d1cddb4&value=851ee8eecf3193dafdb931a499e42421675c7dfd:1303262) drew attention to Deputy Mayor Turgeman’s announcement of 7,000 new housing units in occupied East Jerusalem.   
  
On 21 June, [B’Tselem](http://www.btselem.org/about_btselem/201706_50_years_of_israeli_occupation_speech) published a statement by its Executive Director Hagai El-Ad, addressing the occupation before the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen. B’Tselem earlier reported on [18 June](http://www.btselem.org/press_releases/20170618_btselem_field_researchers_detained_in_hebron) that two of its field researchers had been detained by Israel Police while documenting movement restrictions in Hebron.  
  
The [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council](http://www.mezan.org/en/post/21938/JOINT+PRESS+RELEASE%3A+%28PHROC%29+denounces+the+decision+to+reduce+the+power+supply+to+the+Gaza+Strip+and+warns+of+a+humanitarian+disaster+) released a joint statement on 20 June condemning the decision to restrict the amount of power provided to Gaza and warning the international community of its consequences.   
  
The [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](http://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=9200) released its annual report on 20 June. It also issued a press release on [19 June](http://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=9206) calling for an end to the closure of Gaza border crossings (“2 Million Palestinians Denied Traveling and Movement due to Closure of Gaza Border Crossing”).

[· Peace Now](http://peacenow.org.il/en/central-bureau-statistics-70-rise-construction-settlements-past-year-compared-previous-year) reported on 19 June that data released by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics suggest a 70% increase in settlement construction between April 2016 and March 2017 compared to the same period over the previous year (April 2015 to March 2016).

[· Hamoked](http://www.hamoked.org/Document.aspx?dID=Updates1893) published an update on its petition to improve the processing of Palestinians’ applications to go abroad on 18 June.

**Europe**

The [Palestine Solidarity Campaign](https://www.palestinecampaign.org/government-suffers-defeat-court-palestine-campaigners-boycott-divestment-sanctions-2/) reported on 22 June that it had successfully challenged an effort to prevent local councils from engaging in BDS through their pension schemes.

On 20 June, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) published a Q&A with [Michael Lynk](https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/682-qa-with-un-special-rapporteur-prof-michael-lynk-), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, and a report on the electricity crisis in Gaza on [22 June](https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/684-mapas-team-report-on-life-in-gaza-as-electricity-crisis-deepens).

**North America**

On 16 June, the [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](https://uscpr.org/what-a-week/) published an update on its 5-10 June week of action to mark fifty years of occupation.

[· Jewish Voice for Peace](https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/no-peace-process-gaza-dark/) issued a press release on 20 June entitled “No Peace Process While Gaza is in the Dark”.

[· Beacon Hill Friends House](http://bhfh.org/calendar/anti-arab-racism-and-human-rights-in-israelpalestine/) will host a panel discussion entitled “Racism and Human Rights in Israel/Palestine” in Boston on 24 June.

**United Nations**

[· The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](https://unispal.un.org/databases/dprtest/ngoweb.nsf/f12fded4d0597000852573fc005b9471/d4e9a9e4789d611e8525811d00673b58?OpenDocument) will convene a two-day forum at UN Headquarters in New York on 29 and 30 June to mark fifty years of occupation. [Registration](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdC-pldMtSlO-e0o-DrUSRKVY2Sh2oG19cgWRdg6URfHADa9g/viewform?c=0&w=1) **has been extended to noon (EST) on 26 June**.

On 22 June, the UN [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-13-19-june-2017) published its “Protection of Civilian Report” for the Occupied Palestinian Territory for the period of 13-19 June.

[· Nickolay Mladenov](https://mladenov.org/2017/06/21/it-is-time-to-turn-the-challenges-of-the-past-into-opportunities-for-the-future/), the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, briefed the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 2334 on 20 June.  
  
On 12 June, [UNRWA](https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/statement-unrwa-commissioner-general-half-century-occupation) issued a statement to mark fifty years of occupation.