Palestine's Legal Scene

Your weekly survey of the most important publications and activities related to Palestine, from local and international sources

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Prepared by: Nour Kharouf and Arwa Abdel Moniam
Translation: Aseel Ghabayen and Maisaa Abdelqader Editing: Widad Hussein

This weekly report reviews the legal dynamics of the Palestine question, and everything related to international law and Palestine. The report includes an account of the most important publications, activities, and conferences related to Palestine at the local, regional, international levels. The report further covers decisions, decrees, and judicial orders affecting the Palestinian cause, whether made at the official, academic or public levels. The report aims to be a reference for monitoring, documenting, and archiving the latest human rights developments related to Palestine, and to present them to individuals, researchers, study centers, and official, academic, and legal institutions concerned.

- **Legal Updates by Official Palestinian Bodies:**
- **The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemned a settler's ramming attack that injured at least eight citizens in the town of Tuqu', southeast of Bethlehem. The Ministry also condemned the Israeli occupation's systematic policy of imposing arbitrary restrictions on human rights defenders' freedom to enter and leave the territory of the State of Palestine**. (November 16, 2026)
- **The Jerusalem Governorate warned that the Israeli occupation authorities had announced their intention to allocate approximately 180 dunums of land classified as "state land" in the town of Qalandiya, north of occupied Jerusalem, to settlers under the pretext of "processing agricultural products".** (November 16, 2026)

Legal Updates by Official Israeli Bodies:

- **The Jerusalem District Court ordered former International Criminal Court Prosecutor Karim Khan to pay NIS 25 million in compensation to the families of Israeli hostages. The ruling alleged that**

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his actions had granted Hamas moral legitimacy and thereby prolonged the hostages' captivity. (November 16, 2026)

- **Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar stated that Israel would take countermeasures in response to the new British sanctions, affirming that it would not alter its policies but would instead explore new avenues to strengthen settlements in the West Bank and protect the entities involved in their construction.** (November 17, 2026)
- **An Israeli court in Be'er Sheva decided to extend the detention of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, for another six months without bringing charges against him.** (November 18, 2026)
- **Israeli Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara ordered a freeze on the tender process for construction in the E1 settlement area in the occupied West Bank until a new government is sworn in.** (November 18, 2026)

United Nations Statements and Publications:

- **The United Nations warned of deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza due to a shortage of medical supplies and the targeting of humanitarian workers, calling for the facilitation of aid delivery. In the West Bank, Israeli restrictions have impeded access to basic services, and approximately 28,000 students and staff were affected by 185 incidents targeting educational institutions during the third quarter of 2026.** (November 16 ,2026)
- **The Spokesperson for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Thameen Al-Kheetan, called for the release of all arbitrarily detained Palestinians and the immediate cessation of all practices that may amount to arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture or other forms of ill-treatment.** (November 16, 2026)
- **The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) warned of deterioration of health and humanitarian conditions in Gaza following the death of an eight-month-old infant due to hypothermia, noting that rain and flooding have destroyed displacement camps and exposed approximately 950,000 people to the risk of flooding, including 400,000 at high risk. He also noted an increase of approximately 33,000 cases of acute respiratory infections compared to the previous year, calling for the facilitation of the entry for medical aid, shelter materials, clean water, and disease prevention supplies.** (November 16, 2026)

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- **The United Nations Secretary-General affirmed that journalists are civilians and are protected under international humanitarian law, calling for an end to attacks on journalists covering events in the occupied Palestinian territory and for those responsible to be held accountable. He also called for restrictions on the entry of international journalists into the Gaza Strip to be lifted without delay.** (November 16, 2026)
- **United Nations experts expressed concern over the escalating violence against human rights defenders in the occupied West Bank, stressing that widespread repression aims to silence witnesses to serious international crimes committed in the context of Israel's unlawful occupation.** (November 17, 2026)
- **The Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly approved several draft resolutions on Palestine, including one reaffirming that UNRWA remains the mainstay of the humanitarian response for Palestinian refugees, calling on the Israeli government to respect its privileges and immunities and demanding that Israel withdraw the construction tender for the E1 area and immediately and completely cease all settlement activities. The Committee also approved a draft resolution on the property of Palestinian refugees, requesting the UN Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to protect the property, assets and ownership rights of Arabs in Israel.** (November 18, 2026)
- **The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a draft resolution reaffirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.** (November 19, 2026)
- **The Humanitarian Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory called on the Israeli authorities to halt settler attacks and ensure Palestinian farmers' safe and unrestricted access to their land during the olive harvest season and throughout the year. The team reported more than 400 attacks since September, resulting in injuries and damage exceeding those recorded during any previous season.** (November 20, 2026)

Legal Updates by Regional and International Bodies:

- **The Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Italy and the United Kingdom called on the Israeli government to allow the immediate, rapid and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid throughout Gaza, as well as the entry of tents and dual-use materials needed for humanitarian operations and early recovery. They also warned of the worsening humanitarian situation.** (November 15, 2026)

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- **The United Kingdom imposed sanctions on eight construction and real estate development companies involved in expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank, as well as an activist group involved in obstructing the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.** (November 17, 2026)
- **Australia imposed a new package of sanctions on three individuals and four organisations for their involvement in planning the establishment of illegal settlements and outposts in the West Bank, raising funds for them, recruiting volunteers and providing support to settlers involved in violence against Palestinians.** (November 18, 2026)
- **The Council of the League of Arab States at the Permanent Representatives level condemned the Israeli airstrike targeting the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis, considering it a violation of the international humanitarian law, it also condemned the continued attacks against civilians.** (November 18, 2026)
- **The Foreign Ministers of 16 Arab and Islamic countries welcomed the decisions by the governments of the United Kingdom and Australia to impose sanctions in response to illegal Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including measures targeting companies involved in settlement construction.** (November 18, 2026)
- **The Arab Parliament condemned the Israeli occupation's launch of a new military operation in the central Gaza Strip, stressing that this escalation constitutes a blatant violation of the ceasefire agreement and the commitments made under it.** (November 19, 2026)

Publications of Human Rights NGOs:

- **The Secretary-General of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) condemned the decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to notify approximately 3,000 employees that their permanent employment contracts would be converted into three-month fixed-term contracts, calling on UNRWA management to immediately reserve the decision.** (November 16, 2026)
- **The Guardian revealed that the Israeli military uploaded 3.5 million photographs of Palestinians to Amazon's cloud computing platform in early 2024 for use in facial recognition technology and image analysis.** (November 16, 2026)
- **The Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Jan Egeland, warned against the international community becoming accustomed to the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in**

Gaza, amid ongoing Israeli restrictions on the entry of aid, shelter materials and reconstruction supplies. He affirmed that reliance on tents, blankets and temporary solutions fails to provide adequate protection against the cold and flooding, calling for the opening of all crossings and the authorisation of the entry of humanitarian aid, construction materials and energy supplies. (November 16, 2026)

- **Peace Now reported that the Israeli Civil Administration has allocated more than 28,000 dunums for grazing across the West Bank since the elections. It affirmed that this constitutes direct support for the systematic forcible transfer of Palestinians from their land and rampant criminal violence in the West Bank. (**November 16, 2026)
- **The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate condemned an assault by Israeli soldiers on Suleiman Abu Srour, a photographer for the Palestinian News and Information Agency (WAFA), in Jericho, describing it as a serious violation of press freedom. The Union of News Agencies of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (UNA) also condemned the attack.** (November 17, 2026)
- **Amnesty International criticised the Italian Parliament's adoption of a law making the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism legally binding, warning that the move could pave the way for targeting expressions of solidarity with Palestinians and criminalising legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies.** (November 17, 2026)
- **The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) warned of the worsening suffering of approximately two million Palestinians in Gaza due to a shortage of shelter and restrictions on the entry of shelter and reconstruction supplies, affirming that winter storms threaten the lives of displaced persons amid the continued failure to implement the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).** (November 17, 2026)
- **Al-Haq published a position paper entitled *"UN Security Council Resolution 2803 Is Legally Void and Ineffective"*, asserting that the resolution, which established a Board of Peace to administer Gaza, is contrary to the UN Charter and peremptory norms of international law and violates the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination, permanent sovereignty and return.** (November 17, 2026)
- **The International Humanitarian Law Centre (IHL Centre) warned of the worsening humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip as winter rains set in, stressing that Israel, as the occupying power, bears**

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the primary responsibility for meeting the population's basic needs and facilitating the entry of humanitarian aid and commercial supplies without unlawful restrictions. (November 17, 2026)

- **Statewatch revealed that Greater Manchester Police and the Metropolitan Police used tools developed by the Israeli company Cellebrite to extract data and digital evidence from the phones of pro-Palestinian activists. The police also used messages extracted from the phone of a female activist who was never charged as evidence in criminal proceedings against another activist, despite a notice of discontinuance having been issued in her case.** (November 19, 2026)
- **Five humanitarian organisations, the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Refugees International and Save the Children issued an assessment marking the first anniversary of the launch of the internationally backed peace plan for the Gaza Strip. The plan scored just 4 out of 26 points, compared with 5 points in an earlier assessment in April 2026. The organisations concluded that it had failed to meet its objectives of protecting civilians, facilitating the entry of aid, enabling reconstruction, and ensuring freedom of movement and the right to return.** (November 19, 2026)

Opinion Pieces and Features:

- **Al Jazeera published an opinion article by Refaat Ibrahim, titled: "*Israel: Making the Holy Land Burn*".** (November 15, 2026)
- **The Middle East Institute published an article by Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen, titled: "*Implications of West Bank Economic Collapse*".** (November 16, 2026)
- **The New Humanitarian published an article by Riley Sparks, titled: "*Gaza aid in limbo: One year after the Board of Peace*".** (November 16, 2026)
- **The Journal of Genocide Research published an article by Anthony Gally and Scott Straus, titled: *"Dual-Logic Genocides"*.** (November 17, 2026)
- **The Guardian published an analysis by Julian Borger, titled: *"Myanmar ruling gives new relevance to genocide convention and is 'full of messages' for Israel"*** (November 19, 2026)
- **The Jerusalem Post published an analytical article by Yonah Jeremy Bob, titled: *"ICJ Myanmar ruling could undermine Israel's defense against Gaza genocide charges - analysis"*.** (November 19, 2026).
- **Tawfiq Al-Ghussein published an article titled: "Myanmar, Gaza and the End of Legal Ambiguity".** (November 20, 2026)

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- **Mondoweiss published an opinion article by Mitchell Plitnick, titled: *"What does the ICJ ruling on Myanmar mean for Gaza?".*** (November 20, 2026)
- **Haaretz published an article by Nir Hasson, titled: *"Myanmar's Genocide Defense Failed at the ICJ. Israel Made Many of The Same Arguments".*** (November 20, 2026)

Legal Achievements/Impacts for Palestine:

- **The Hind Rajab Foundation (HRF) submitted a request to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to prosecute former Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant on charges of ordering the commission of war crimes in Gaza and Lebanon between October 2023 and November 2024, as well as committing genocide in Gaza.** (November 17. 2026)
- **The University of Galway in Ireland announced its withdrawal from a European Commission-funded research project involving the Israeli Technion Institute, following protests by staff, students and alumni over the university's participation, citing the institute's links to the development of military technologies used by Israel. The university reaffirmed its condemnation of the genocide in Gaza and its commitment not to pursue or enter into any new institutional research agreements with Israeli partners.** (November 17, 2026)

Human rights conferences and events:

- **The Mizan project, an initiative of Tech for Palestine, launched its first test as part of a benchmark designed to assess bias in artificial intelligence models when addressing Palestinian and Israeli issues. The test focuses on the use of the terms "hostage", "detainee" and "prisoner" to describe individuals held without charge, aiming to identify inconsistencies in how comparable cases are characterised.** (November 17, 2026)
- **The European Legal Support Center (ELSC) launched a campaign against the criminalisation of expressions of solidarity with Palestine in Germany, warning that a draft law under consideration by the German Parliament that could criminalise the use of the phrase "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free", with penalties of up to five years in prison on the grounds of incitement to hatred and denial of Israel's right to exist.** (November 19, 2026)

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