

State of Palestine**

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| Field presence | Country Office Operation established in 1996 |
| Engagement with the human rights mechanisms | In 2012, the General Assembly voted to recognize the State of Palestine as a non-member observer State. Palestine has not yet become a State Party to any of the international human rights conventions. |
| Visits by special procedures in the past five years | Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967 (2012) Special Rapporteurs on adequate housing (2012); and freedom of opinion and expression (2011) |
| Pending visit requests by special procedures | None |
| Specific mandates of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council | Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967 Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Areas of the Occupied Territories |

The Palestinian Territory has been under Israeli military occupation since 1967. Within this context, and in light of the ongoing split between Fatah and Hamas, violations of human rights are committed by all three duty-bearers: the Government of Israel, the Government of the State of Palestine/Palestinian Authority, and the de facto authorities in Gaza.

In relation to Israel as the occupying Power, excessive use of force and violations of the right to life, arbitrary detention and ill-treatment remain serious concerns. Israeli restrictions on the freedom of movement, both within the West Bank and between the West Bank and Gaza (including the ongoing blockade of Gaza), hamper the exercise of numerous rights. Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have a severe impact on the rights of Palestinians, including the right to self-determination. Israeli settlers continue to commit violent acts against Palestinians with impunity. In the context of Israeli military operations there have been clear indications that the Government of Israel has at times failed to respect the principles of distinction, proportionality

and precautions. On the Palestinian side, arbitrary detention and ill-treatment, application of the death penalty, and arbitrary restrictions of the rights to freedom of expression and association are of serious concern. Moreover, various armed groups in Gaza have fired hundreds of rockets indiscriminately into Israel in clear violation of international law. Permeating the entire situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) with respect to both Israel and Palestinian actors is a culture of impunity, under which alleged violations are not investigated effectively and perpetrators are almost never held to account.

The OHCHR field presence was established in 1996 to implement the mandate of the High Commissioner to promote and protect the effective enjoyment and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all people in the OPT without discrimination. This mandate includes monitoring and reporting, technical assistance, and capacity-building for the Palestinian Authority and civil society. In addition, OHCHR is specifically mandated by Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1 of 2009 to report regularly on the human rights situation in the OPT, including East Jerusalem. Pursuant to its mandate, OHCHR submits periodic reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly and informs discussions within other United Nations bodies.

OHCHR monitors, documents and reports on human rights violations perpetrated by all duty-bearers in the OPT, with a view to ensuring corrective action and accountability for human rights violations. This includes a specific focus on: the right to life and security, freedom of expression, arbitrary detention, arrest and detention of children, human rights defenders and accountability for settler violence. OHCHR also provides technical assistance and capacity-building for Palestinian authorities, institutions and civil society, with a view to anchor human rights in Palestinian society and the legal framework. The Office will provide advice and assistance on the legislative and administrative steps necessary to become a State Party to the core human rights treaties, as soon as legally possible, and to implement their provisions.

In 2013, the UN adopted the first United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) for Palestine. OHCHR helped ensure a strong human rights-based focus and will work with its partners to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed in the UN development assistance.

** Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

OHCHR is leading the Protection Cluster within the context of the overall humanitarian response. The Protection Cluster brings together Palestinian, Israeli and international humanitarian and human rights organizations to provide a more comprehensive response, with coordination of aspects such as monitoring and documentation, joint analysis and advocacy, particularly to ensure accountability for violations.

Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratification when feasible.

- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: public participation in development policies and budget processes and mainstreaming human rights in United Nations programmes.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: public and media freedoms.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: detention and the death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and honour crimes; mainstreaming human rights in humanitarian action and prevention and accountability of human rights violations in the context of conflict.

OHCHR expected contribution

| ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN PALESTINE** | |
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| RIGHTS-HOLDERS | DUTY-BEARERS |
| <p>[EA5] ▶ The NHRI and relevant non-governmental organizations /civil society organizations (CSOs) monitor the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan.</p> | <p>[EA1] Increased compliance with international human rights standards by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Legislation, decrees and administrative instructions relating to SGBV and honour crimes; ▶ Targeted institutions in the areas of freedom of association, assembly and expression; ▶ Detention practices and detention conditions; ▶ Formal moratorium of the death penalty in the West Bank and de facto moratorium in Gaza. |
| | <p>[EA2] ▶ Accession to ICCPR and ICESCR.</p> |
| | <p>[EA3] ▶ Mechanisms established to improve accountability and enhance prevention of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.</p> |
| <p>[EA10] ▶ Increased responsiveness of the international community to issues of impunity by both Israeli and Palestinian duty-bearers.</p> | |
| <p>[EA11] Enhanced implementation of a human rights-based approach by United Nations programmes, especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Within the framework of the UNDAF; and ▶ Humanitarian strategies, planning and responses. | |

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising – as described in the first part of this document. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Palestine.