



CONFERENCE A

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**Documentation of the Work of the Committee on the Exercise of the  
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)**

# Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)

## Committee Staff

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## Agenda

- I. International Action for the Release of All Palestinian Political Prisoners
- II. Promoting Cooperation through Shared Water Resources
- III. Strengthening Partnerships with Civil Society

## Report Segments adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>Report Segment A</b>	International Action for the Release of All Palestinian Political Prisoners	17 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 0 abstentions
<b>Report Segment B</b>	International Action for the Release of All Palestinian Political Prisoners	15 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 4 abstentions
<b>Report Segment C</b>	International Action for the Release of All Palestinian Political Prisoners	19 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 0 abstentions
<b>Report Segment D</b>	International Action for the Release of All Palestinian Political Prisoners	10 votes in favor, 6 votes against, 4 abstentions

## Summary Report

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. International Action for the Release of All Palestinian Political Prisoners
2. Strengthening Partnerships with Civil Society
3. Promoting Cooperation through Shared Water Resources

The session was attended by representatives of 22 countries, and 1 observer. The first session opened with several statements concerning the adoption of the agenda. Discussions and attempts to set the agenda endured approximately two hours. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “International Action for the Release of All Palestinian Political Prisoners.”

By Tuesday afternoon, the body presented 4 different approaches to handle the topic of Palestinian political prisoners. Among others, there was an attempt to ensure fair trials for all Palestinian political prisoners and another one focused on the improvement of living conditions of Palestinians under Israeli detention. Overall, the work was consensus driven always striving towards the ultimate goal of releasing all Palestinian political prisoners. However, debate sparked on the definition of political prisoners being the only controversial issue. In the evening, delegates actively participated in improving their working paper, alternating between formal and informal sessions.

On Wednesday morning, the Dais approved two working papers as draft report segments. During the first session, two additional working papers were approved by the Dais. Eventually three draft report segments were modified by friendly amendments. Right before voting procedure the committee decided consensually to change the order of the draft report segments, making draft report segment C to A. The committee adopted four draft report segments. Three segments were adopted by roll call vote. Overall, report segments represented a wide range of issues, including, fair trials for Palestinian political prisoners, a provisional strategy for enhancing the lives of prisoners, the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration for Political prisoners back into society and proposed investigation and a media campaign.



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**Code:** CEIRPP/1/1

**Committee:** Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

**Topic:** International Action for the Release of all Palestinian Political Prisoner

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### 1 **I. Introduction**

#### 3 **A. FAIR TRIALS FOR PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS**

- 5 1. Palestine believes many of its citizens have been illegally and arbitrarily imprisoned or taken to Israel  
6 detainment. At the end of January 2015, 455 Palestinian administrative detainees, human beings who are under  
7 detention without trial, were being held in facilities run by Israeli prison service. The unconditional release of  
8 all Palestinian political prisoners has been requested by Palestine, but has never been acknowledged by Israel.  
9 However, so far, there have been three rounds of releases.
- 10  
11 2. Political prisoners are defined as human beings arrested for the expression of their political views or reflecting  
12 superordinate political aims. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People  
13 (CEIRPP) sees a particular distinction between political prisoners and those individuals who commit unlawful  
14 acts with political motivation. However, the final goal of CEIRPP is the release of all Palestinian political  
15 prisoners.
- 16  
17 3. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention was created in 1991 by the Human Rights Council (HRC) to  
18 investigate cases where human beings faced arbitrary detention as well as treatment against international human  
19 right standards. So far, this group has not thoroughly evaluated the situation of Palestinian political prisoners  
20 within the Palestinian-Israeli conflict at large.

#### 22 **B. PROVISIONAL STRATEGY FOR ENHANCING THE LIVES OF PRISONERS**

- 23  
24 4. During its last reporting period, the Committee observed that the ongoing detention of 6,200 Palestinian  
25 political prisoners by Israel is a barrier impeding the peace process between Israel and Palestine. A successful  
26 peace process needs the support of the people, but the ongoing dispute about unlawful detention of Palestinian  
27 political prisoners is a continuous source of tension between the two parties. Therefore, the eventual goal will  
28 be to release all unlawfully detained prisoners. However, the committee recognizes that due to the violent  
29 escalation of the conflict in summer 2014 which caused more tensions between the two parties, a total and  
30 immediate release of all prisoners is diplomatically not feasible. Nevertheless, the committee continues to work  
31 towards a full release. At the same time the committee seeks to ensure the exercise of human rights of all  
32 Palestinian political prisoners by improving living conditions of those in detention.
- 33  
34 5. The Committee is especially concerned by the report of the Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights  
35 Association regarding the living conditions of the 1,000 political prisoners suffering from various illnesses;  
36 among these are 180 with chronic diseases and 25 diagnosed with cancer. These prisoners do not only suffer  
37 from unfair detention but also from the poor living conditions. The widespread lack of medical care worsens the  
38 impact of the living conditions on prisoners' health as addressed by General Assembly resolution 69/93 (2014).  
39 Additionally, Addameer reported that 53 prisoners have died as a result of medical neglect since 1967.  
40 Furthermore, the detention conditions may also cause psychological stress, which could impede reintegration  
41 into society. A failure to reintegrate released prisoners may lead to further instability in the region and may  
42 harm the peace process.
- 43  
44 6. In this sense, the Committee recognizes the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in  
45 particular Article 25, constituting the right to health. Furthermore, both Israel and Palestine are parties to the  
46 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which also includes the right to physical and  
47 mental health in Article 12. The human right to health is universal, inalienable and equally guaranteed to all  
48 human beings. Consequently, Palestinian political prisoners have the right to health.
- 49

- 50 7. Among the prisoners, there are not only ill human beings but according to Addameer also 173 prisoners under  
51 the age of 18. Children and adolescents constitute the future of Palestine and the committee is convinced that  
52 the success of the peace process depends on the support from the young generation. Furthermore, since children  
53 and adolescents are still in the phase of physical and mental development, they are more affected by detention  
54 and poor living conditions. Therefore, they need special support.  
55
- 56 8. The committee is worried about the large number of young people in detention not only because of health  
57 considerations but also because of their lack of access to education. While in prison minors cannot attend school  
58 and only have limited access to books written in Arabic. Education is a human right granted through Article 13  
59 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Education signed by Israel and  
60 Palestine. A lack of education has repercussions on the prisoners' ability to reintegrate into and contribute to a  
61 peaceful society. Furthermore, the committee recognizes the importance of education for mutual tolerance,  
62 respect, and appreciation within a multi-ethnic society.  
63

### 64 **C. REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS BACK INTO SOCIETY** 65

- 66 9. CEIRPP draws attention to Human Rights Council resolution 25/29, which states that thousands of Palestinians,  
67 many of which are women and children, are held in Israeli prisons or detention centers. These facilities are  
68 unhygienic, lack proper medical care, and deny family visits and fair trials. CEIRPP is deeply concerned about  
69 the ill treatment of Palestinian prisoners and reports of torture.  
70
- 71 10. This committee appreciates the action of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which reported on  
72 children in Israeli military detention in February 2013, noticing that the ill treatment is "widespread, systematic,  
73 and institutionalized". Moreover, the report shows that "in no other country are children systematically tried by  
74 juvenile military courts that, by definition, fall short of providing the necessary guarantees to ensure respect for  
75 their rights." Additionally, UNICEF has provided 38 specific recommendations to help Israel resolve its  
76 violations during detention, arrest and trial of children. These recommendations are very beneficial to the  
77 international community.  
78
- 79 11. CEIRPP is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in particular Article 9, which  
80 underlines the fundamental right of the child to "not to be separated from his or her parents against his will",  
81 and particularly "where such separation results from any action initiated by a State party, such as the detention,  
82 imprisonment, exile, deportation or death". The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found out that there  
83 have been two specific cases in which minors were taken in the middle of the night and have been confined for  
84 over a year of administrative detention not knowing the charges against them and denying access to a lawyer or  
85 visits from their families.  
86
- 87 12. CEIRPP believes that rehabilitation and reintegration are essential for a peaceful Palestinian state.  
88 Rehabilitation and reintegration allow for Palestinian political prisoners to gain necessary resources to return to  
89 their communities. Since many of the prisoners experienced psychological and physical trauma, the usage of  
90 rehabilitation will allow these individuals to create a brighter future for themselves and their families.  
91

### 92 **D. INVESTIGATION AND MEDIA CAMPAIGN** 93

- 94 13. Many of the ongoing investigations carried out by Addameer in partnership with CEIRPP record the tortures  
95 and abuses suffered by Palestinian political prisoners while in detention, but there are no current ongoing  
96 investigations on the medical and psychological treatment of prisoners, especially those who die of their  
97 medical ailments while in prison or shortly after their release.  
98
- 99 14. In 2014, the Committee furthered its cooperation with civil societies through the International Year of Solidarity  
100 with the Palestinian People. The Committee along with the Division of Palestinian Rights (DPR) organized a  
101 series of meetings and conferences aimed at mobilizing governments and civil society to collaborate with the  
102 Committee. Based on the massive amount of support, the International Year of Solidarity was able to galvanize  
103 support within the international community, especially using social media outlets like YouTube, Twitter, and  
104 Facebook, etc. having a great impact on global awareness and consciousness of world issues among citizens.  
105 The DPR among its various activities has participated in the creation of monthly bulletins of the United

106 Nations' actions related to the question of Palestine, reports on meetings, and conferences, and the publishing,  
107 and dissemination of that information through websites, and social information networks.  
108

- 109 15. The Committee acknowledges the importance of public mobilization and awareness in influencing the status  
110 quo in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Question of Palestine. Political leaders shape their domestic, and  
111 foreign policies according to public opinion. As such the influence citizens have on their governments can be  
112 employed to incite these leaders to engage in policies promoting a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian  
113 conflict, and the respect of human rights, including those of Palestinian political prisoners.  
114
- 115 16. Even though releases took place, released prisoners have faced and continue to face significant problems  
116 reintegrating themselves back into society upon their release. Some of these difficulties they face include a lack  
117 of resources for work and professional success, especially with regard to entrepreneurial opportunities. Such  
118 difficulties often lead to terrorist and extremist measures against Israel on the part of these release prisoners,  
119 eventually harming cooperation attempts between both the occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, eventually  
120 damaging peace talks.  
121

## 122 **II. Mandate**

123

- 124 17. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established by the  
125 General Assembly by its resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, with the task of recommending a  
126 programme designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights, as recognized by the  
127 Assembly in its resolution 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974. Further information is available on the website  
128 maintained by the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat at <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/com.htm>.  
129
- 130 18. On 26 November 2013, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Committee (resolution 68/12),  
131 requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights with the necessary  
132 resources to carry out its programme of work (resolution 68/13) and requested the continuation of the special  
133 information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat  
134 (resolution 68/14). The Assembly also adopted resolution 68/15, entitled "Peaceful settlement of the question of  
135 Palestine".  
136

## 137 **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

138

### 139 **A. FAIR TRIALS FOR PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS**

140

- 141 19. If there is too little evidence on a case, CEIRPP is convinced that the Palestinian political prisoner needs to be  
142 released immediately. Any political prisoner defined as an individual convicted for the expression of their  
143 political views or reflecting superordinate political aims should be released unconditionally as detention or  
144 imprisonment in this case is unlawful. However, CEIRPP is convinced that not all Palestinian prisoners should  
145 be released, as there is a clear distinction between political prisoners and regular prisoners who carried out an  
146 unlawful act. Additionally, all prisoners deserve the right to a fair trial and this should extend to all Palestinian  
147 prisoners currently detained and potentially detained in the future.  
148
- 149 20. The committee recommends having fair trials that include increased involvement of observers in particular of  
150 Palestine and the international community because it may provide a new perspective and greater objectivity.  
151 These observer states will have no voting power and will not affect Israel's legal procedure. There should be a  
152 comprehensive system created to choose representatives from Palestine and the international community to join  
153 the Israeli court system as observers.  
154
- 155 21. CEIRPP would welcome the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to consider arbitrary detention of  
156 Palestinians in Israel. Furthermore, the committee would appreciate an initiated dialogue between Israeli  
157 authorities and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on the topic of Palestinian political prisoners.  
158

### 159 **B. PROVISIONAL STRATEGY FOR ENHANCING THE LIVES OF PRISONERS**

160

- 161 22. The human right to health is not fully achieved for Palestinian political prisoners. Therefore, a fundamental  
162 change of the health care situation among Palestinian political prisoners is necessary. The committee recognizes  
163 that Israel's capacities regarding the medical treatment of prisoners are limited and it is as such the  
164 responsibility of the international community to support improved health care for all prisoners.  
165
- 166 23. To improve the health care situation of Palestinian political prisoners, the committee recommends to the Third  
167 Committee of the General Assembly to discuss the health care of Palestinian political prisoners. CEIRPP would  
168 welcome initiatives from the international community to improve the health of Palestinian political prisoners. In  
169 this sense, the committee has developed a project plan how to tackle the medical issues of imprisoned  
170 Palestinians. This project will focus on enhancing health care but should not be understood as an investigation.  
171
- 172 24. The project CEIRPP proposes is called Healthcare for Enhancing the Lives of Palestinian Prisoners (HELPP).  
173 HELPP could be implemented by a suitable United Nations body. The project should include a minimum of 20  
174 Arab speaking medical staff from countries of which both Palestine and Israel approve. The committee would  
175 advise the General Assembly to include medical doctors as well as psychologists in the project. Medical staff  
176 should serve on a rotating basis at locations in which Palestinians are detained.  
177
- 178 25. The medical doctors should assess the state of prisoners' health, provide adequate treatment, and serve as a  
179 confidant for detainees. Furthermore, they could also perform regular medical check-ups as a preventive  
180 measure to identify early symptoms of physical and mental ailments. The psychologists will be on-call for all  
181 prisoners in need of psychological counseling. The committee would like to see a reconfirmation of the  
182 confidentiality of medical records to prevent misuse of information.  
183
- 184 26. The Committee would suggest that medical staff of HELPP write a collective semiannual report to the Third  
185 Committee of the General Assembly providing an overview over the state of health of all Palestinian prisoners  
186 and on the impact of living conditions on the wellbeing of prisoners. Furthermore, the HELPP project should  
187 cooperate with existing Israeli human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) currently involved with  
188 Palestinian political prisoners such as Physicians for Human Rights – Israel. The findings of NGOs could be  
189 incorporated into the final report of HELPP. The committee hopes that including Israeli NGOs will encourage  
190 balanced relations between the countries.  
191
- 192 27. As education is not only a human right but also important for shaping a tolerant society, CEIRPP would  
193 appreciate if the international community would take action to ensure proper and equal education to Palestinian  
194 political prisoners. Therefore, the Committee recommends the General Assembly to discuss the topic of existing  
195 restrictions by Israel on literature in detention centers and prisons with the goal of lifting them.  
196
- 197 28. Furthermore, the Committee would appreciate the General Assembly to recommend UNICEF to consider  
198 working on the issue of education for Palestinian political prisoners. CEIRPP would suggest initiating an  
199 education project with volunteer teachers from Israel and Palestine. The teachers should visit detention centers  
200 and prisons where Palestinians are held. The Committee would highly appreciate if the teachers provide basic  
201 education, classes in culture and history of the region as well as Hebrew language classes for prisoners under  
202 the age of 18. It is the hope of the Committee that such a project could enhance cultural tolerance among  
203 Palestinians as well as improve their education, which will facilitate their reintegration into society.  
204

205 **C. REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS BACK INTO SOCIETY**  
206

- 207 29. CEIRPP supports the unconditional release of all children, pregnant women and terminally ill prisoners. It is  
208 essential to reintegrate children back into society at a young age, protect the health of women bearing children,  
209 and respect health conditions of the terminally ill. Moreover, the committee draws attention to the importance of  
210 reintegrating former youth detainees into society via rehabilitation centers and encourages the international  
211 community to stand behind these children as they go through this process.  
212
- 213 30. To ensure a full rehabilitation after detention or imprisonment, CEIRPP emphasizes the importance of  
214 rehabilitation and reintegration of Palestinian political prisoners. UNRWA can be a supportive source of  
215 information dealing with traumatized and ill refugees. Specifically, UNRWA has expertise on education, and  
216 advice on reintegrating people into workforce and civil society. Additionally, physical and mental health need



217 to be addressed during rehabilitation. CEIRPP encourages the international community to financially contribute  
218 to the provision of infrastructure and resources to enable Palestine to support Palestinian political prisoners  
219 during the rehabilitation period after their detention or imprisonment.  
220

- 221 31. CEIRPP endorses the usage of sports and other proactive group activities as a method of rehabilitation.  
222 Modeling off of The International Day of Sports for Development and Peace (IDSP), the committee encourages  
223 the usage of sports and teamwork to foster a community of support and developmental growth. The committee  
224 also stresses the importance of family communication, including the children's mother during and after  
225 rehabilitation of minors.  
226
- 227 32. CEIRPP encourages the DPR to improve the diffusion of information regarding the Palestinian cause, especially  
228 through the "Question of Palestine" website, including the United Nations Information System on the Question  
229 of Palestine (UNISPAL). In addition, CEIRPP urges to further develop the power of Social Media through  
230 Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and RSS to upload news and data relating to the condition of political prisoners.  
231

#### 232 **D. INVESTIGATION AND MEDIA CAMPAIGN** 233

- 234 33. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the launching of an investigation  
235 spearheaded by the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Amnesty International into Israeli detentions and  
236 prisons detaining Palestinian political prisoners. This investigation would expand on ongoing investigations  
237 currently being carried out by Addameer in partnership with CEIRPP and focusing on the medical and  
238 psychological status of prisoners.  
239
- 240 34. The Committee would welcome the launch of an official Media Campaign, following the tremendous potential  
241 that the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People made in mobilizing international support for  
242 the Palestinian people. Subsequently, such efforts should be renewed and enhanced. Therefore, a new campaign  
243 would call attention specifically to those Palestinians detained under Israeli detention centers and prisons under  
244 political, national and other such unnamed charges. This campaign also aims to build on what the International  
245 Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People has done for the rights of Palestinian people on social media such  
246 as Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, etc. but also to expand to emerging social media outlets such as Snapchat,  
247 which are useful, efficient, and make live reporting faster on the media front in high-risk and/or dangerous  
248 conflict-zones. Outlets like these are also safer and can protect the integrity of those who report it. Additionally,  
249 the committee proposes using the hashtag #FreePalestinianPrisoners.  
250
- 251 35. The Committee calls upon the international community to introduce a foundation in which donations from  
252 CSOs, governments and/or Member States (that are interested in a peaceful two-state resolution), and  
253 individuals will be accepted to help these released prisoners start their own businesses, establishments, and  
254 other such entrepreneurial projects. Such projects will help not only reintegrate them into Palestinian society,  
255 but will also strengthen civil society and the economy as a whole.  
256
- 257 36. The Committee and the DPR shall continue its efforts of monitoring and dissemination of information through  
258 meetings, conferences, publications and social media, and employ those already available channels to highlight  
259 specifically the plight of Palestinian political prisoners and the release of children from Israeli prisons and  
260 detention centers.