

**FRANCESCA P. ALBANESE**

International Lawyer, specialized in Human Rights and the Israel/Palestine Question

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*CURRENT ROLE*

**UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)**  
(May 2022- present)

The Special Rapporteur is mandated by the Human Rights Council to investigate violations of international law in the oPt, and report to the Council itself and the UN General Assembly.

*EDUCATION*

**PhD Candidate (Refugee Studies)**, University of Amsterdam, School of Law (2020-present)

**LL.M in International Human Rights Law**, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK (2005-6)

**MA International Development**, Institute for Advanced International Studies, Italy  
(2001-2)

**BA, Summa Cum Laude**, Faculty of Law, University of Pisa, Italy (1996-2001)

*EMPLOYMENT*

**Senior Adviser, Migration Forced Displacement and Statelessness**

**Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) –Legal Aid, Jordan**

(Nov 2018- present)

As of January 2022, lead research team and provide strategic advice on **migration, forced displacement and statelessness in the Arab world** (teaching, leading seminars, coordinating expert network, engaging strategic stakeholders). Previously coordinated ‘Question of Palestine program’ including leading regional research projects (green economy and refugees; UNRWA reform; Palestinian refugee youth’s political aspirations and identity). In 2020 drafted strategy to upgrade ARDD’s research capacity into a regional research hub.

**Affiliate Scholar (non-resident)**

**Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University, Washington DC**

(Nov 2015-present)

Conduct legal research, author peer-reviewed scholarly papers, blogs, op-eds on Israel/Palestine and forced displacement in the Arab world. (Co)authored major scholarly contribution: *Palestinian Refugees in International Law* (Oxford University Press 2020).

**Senior Technical Advisor (Protection) on Humanitarian Response**

**Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Team, Concern International, Washington DC**

(Oct 2014- July 2015)

Provided strategic advice on humanitarian support to Liberia during the Ebola crisis.

Supported policy and strategy development. Led global vulnerability assessment in Liberia.

**Legal Officer (Access\Protection)****UNRWA Department of Legal Affairs (DLA), International Law Division, Jerusalem****(Feb 2010- Dec 2012)**

Contributed to UNRWA Protection policy development and mainstreaming. Led development of UNRWA Policy Framework for Effective Interaction with the International Human Rights System for Palestinian refugees. Provided legal advice, research, analysis based on international human rights and humanitarian law. Drafted agency biannual reports on UNRWA neutrality. Coordinated submissions and presentations to UN bodies and independent experts.

**Human Rights Officer****OHCHR, Field Cooperation and Technical Cooperation Division, National Institutions Unit, Geneva****(Sept 2006-Feb 2010)**

Provided legal research on and technical assistance to national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the MENA region and the Asia Pacific. Advised on over 20 NHRI laws' compliance with international standards. Supported coordination of the NHRIs' accreditation process, and NHRIs' interaction with international human rights mechanisms. Led a variety of human rights capacity assessments and development of human rights programs and regional partnership.

**UN Fellow, Democratic Governance****UNDP, Governance and Social Development Unit, Rabat, Morocco****(July 2003-August 2005)**

Project management; establishment of regional and national 'inclusion platforms' in the Maghreb/Morocco; implementation of 'rights' approach through decentralized cooperation project activities.

**Election Observer/Monitor****European Union Election Observation Mission in Haiti (Jan-Feb 2006), Guinea Bissau (Jun-Aug 2005); Pakistan (Sept-Oct 2002)****Legal Aid****CGIL (Workers' Union), Italy – CEFA NGO, Morocco****(April 2002-Dec 2002)**

Provided legal counsel to undocumented migrants from Morocco to Italy. Developed and delivered legal trainings for perspective migrants.

***LANGUAGE***

Italian: Mother tongue; English: Fluent (Written/Spoken); French: Fluent (Written/Spoken); Spanish: Fluent (Spoken); Indonesian: Fluent (Spoken).

***BOOKS, ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS***

Albanese F. & A.Imseis, '**The UN Mandate toward the Palestinian Refugees: The Legal Imperatives of a Moral Responsibility**' (The Graduate Institute Geneva, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, forthcoming).

Qafisheh, M.M., Sahtout, R., Albanese, F. & Takkenberg, L., '**The Lex Specialis Regime Pertinent to Palestinian Refugees**' (Global Jurist. 2022)

Albanese, F, Takkenberg, L, *Palestinian Refugees in International Law*, Oxford University Press (21 May 2020).

Albanese, F, Takkenberg, L, 'The Palestinian Refugee Question: and International Law Perspective', in 'UNRWA: 70 years and more', *Palestine Return Center, Acts of Conference* (forthcoming).

AbuZayd, K, Albanese, F, Imseis, A, Kelcey, J, Rabbani, M, Rempel, T, "Considering the Past and present of UNRWA", Online Roundtable of the Institute for Palestine Studies (December 2019) and Jadaliyya (February 2020) - <https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/40607>.

Albanese, F., Lilly, D., 'The importance of Addressing the Root Causes of Palestinian Displacement', *Forced Migration Review* 65 (Oct 2019) - [www.fmreview.org/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/return/albanese-lilly.pdf](http://www.fmreview.org/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/return/albanese-lilly.pdf)

Albanese, F. 'Palestinian Refugees: an International Law Perspective', *Il Ponte* (Oct 2019)

Albanese, F., "UNRWA and Palestine Refugee Rights: New Assaults, New Challenges, *Current Issues In depth*, Issue no.1, November 2018, Institute for Palestine Studies - [https://issuu.com/palestine-studies/docs/ips\\_currentissues\\_november2018\\_11-1](https://issuu.com/palestine-studies/docs/ips_currentissues_november2018_11-1)

Albanese, F. "Palestinian Refugees are the Ultimate Battleground for the International Community" *Palestine Square* (25 September 2018) - <https://palestinesquare.com/2018/09/25/palestinian-refugees-are-the-ultimate-battleground-for-the-international-community/>

Albanese, F. "Palestinian Refugees Under Attack: When Politics Trump Law and History", *Jadaliyya*, (12 September 2018) - <http://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/38006/UNRWA-and-Palestinian-Refugees-Under-Attack-When-Politics-Trump-Law-and-History>

Albanese, F. (forthcoming), "Palestinian refugees in South East Asia: new frontiers of a seventy year-long exodus", *Palestinian Yearbook of International Law*.

Albanese, F (2018), "Ending seventy years for Palestinian refugees", *Mondoweiss* (12 May 2018), <http://mondoweiss.net/2018/05/seventy-palestinian-refugees/>

Albanese, F. (2014), "The Deafening Silence around Hamas proposed cease-fire", *Mondoweiss* (July, 22 2014) - <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/07/deafening-silence-proposal.html>

Albanese, F., Habjouqa, T. (2012), "Bedouin Resolution: Standing Firm in the Jerusalem Periphery", *Jadaliyya* (Dec, 17th 2012) – <http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/contributors/110417>.

Albanese, F., Allal A., "Donne e libertà in terre d'Islam", *Analisi XXI* (3) CENRI Ed., Bologna. (2005)

Albanese, F., comment and translation into Italian of the article «Les régimes politiques et le défi de la transition démocratique au Maghreb», by Bendourou, O., Lecce: Pensa Ed. (2004)

Albanese, F., "Une leçon de Gouvernance Démocratique au Maghreb", *Actes du colloque sur la Gouvernance et le Développement local, Revue marocaine d'audit et développement*, Rabat. (2004)

Albanese, F., Misuraca, M., "Democrazia Partecipativa e Governance: lezioni dal Brasile", in *Nord e Sud*, ESI Ed., Napoli. (2003)

Albanese, F., Melica, M., "La limitazione della libertà personale del richiedente asilo alla luce della Convenzione europea dei diritti dell'uomo. La detenzione nei centri secondo la House of Lords", in *Diritto Immigrazione Cittadinanza* (2), Franco Angeli Editore, Milano. (2002)

