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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-seventh year

Identical letters dated 1 July 2022 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Once again, I must draw the international community's attention to the worsening situation in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, as Palestinian civilians continue to be targeted by the violence and terrorism of Israeli occupying forces, including extremist settler militias. This violence is being perpetrated constantly and systematically with the full support of Israel's government and military apparatus, in grave breach of international law, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), which explicitly called for immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror.

Without doubt, the absence of accountability for grave breaches is emboldening such impunity. Israel's political and military officials and settlers believe that they will never be held to account for their crimes, regardless of the gravity and depravity, and so they continue to dehumanize Palestinians, treating men, women and children with absolute hatred and inhumanity, in gross violation of international human rights law and humanitarian law. As affirmed by international, as well as Palestinian and Israeli, human rights organizations, such domination, oppression and inhumane treatment of the Palestinian people constitutes apartheid, a crime against humanity. Israel must be held accountable for all of these crimes against our people.

Since my previous letter to the Security Council, dated 20 June 2022, more Palestinian civilians, including youth, have been killed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers. On 20 June, just minutes after my letter was sent, Israeli occupying forces killed a Palestinian man, Nabil Ahmed Salim Ghanem, aged 53, shooting him to death as he tried to cross the apartheid wall in Qalqilya in order to reach his job, leaving his wife a widow and his children orphaned. This was followed on 21 June by the murder of a young Palestinian man, Ali Harb, aged 27, who was stabbed to death by an Israeli settler in the village of Iskaka. After his stabbing, Israeli occupying forces protected the settlers who have repeatedly attacked the village trying to seize land, and, at the same time, prevented Palestinians from providing medical aid to Harb for an hour, leaving him to bleed to death on the ground, while the settler escaped.



On 25 June, yet another Palestinian child, Mohammed Abdullah Hamed, aged 16, was killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the town of Silwad. On 29 June, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian youth, Mohammed Marei, aged 25, during yet another military raid of the city of Jenin. In all such cases, Israeli soldiers continue to use live ammunition against unarmed and defenceless Palestinian civilians, including children, in grave breach of international law. We call once again for the perpetrators of all of these crimes against the Palestinian people to be held accountable and call for justice for the victims and their families.

In this regard, we also continue to call for an independent international investigation into the murder of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by Israeli occupying forces during their raid of Jenin refugee camp on 11 May. There must be full accountability for this heinous crime, which Israel, the occupying Power, refuses to investigate. In this regard, we recognize the importance of the various investigations carried out, including by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which concluded, inter alia: “All information we have gathered – including official information from the Israeli military and the Palestinian Attorney-General – is consistent with the finding that the shots that killed Abu Akleh and injured her colleague Ali Sammoudi came from Israeli Security Forces and not from indiscriminate firing by armed Palestinians, as initially claimed by Israeli authorities. We have found no information suggesting that there was activity by armed Palestinians in the immediate vicinity of the journalists.”

Moreover, that statement, issued by OHCHR on 24 June, concluded: “International human rights law requires prompt, thorough, transparent, independent and impartial investigation into all use of force resulting in death or serious injury. Perpetrators must be held to account.”

We must also draw attention to the rising incidences of settler violence and terror, as Jewish settlers transferred by Israel to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, become ever more aggressive and radical, confident in the support of the Israeli occupying forces and believing that they will never be punished for their crimes against the Palestinian people. Among the countless acts of provocation, incitement and violence by Israeli settlers in the recent period were the following:

On 26 June, dozens of extremist Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli occupying forces, again stormed the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and performed religious rituals at the holy site, in violation of the historic and legal status quo, further inflaming religious sentiments and tensions and threatening to ignite another cycle of violence.

On 29 June, Israeli settlers terrorized a group of Palestinian children attending a summer camp in Al-Khalil (Hebron). While the children were taking part in a field trip to the Haram al-Ibrahimi, settlers harassed them, cursing the girls and boys with foul language and racist slurs and threatening the children with their dogs, leaving many of the children terrified and traumatized.

On 30 June, settlers ran wild through the occupied West Bank: at least 17 Palestinians were wounded by Israeli gunfire when extremist Israeli settlers raided the area of Joseph’s Tomb near the city of Nablus, and 40 others suffered from inhalation of tear gas fired by the Israeli occupying forces. Israeli settlers set fire to Palestinian-owned land in the village of Husan, near Bethlehem, destroying hundreds of trees. Husan has also often been targeted by Israeli occupying forces, who have killed children and youth from the village, fuelling settlers’ lawlessness. Israeli settlers destroyed hundreds of saplings for vegetable crops in the town of Halhul, north of Al-Khalil. Israeli occupying forces and Israeli settlers assaulted activists planting olive trees in lands threatened with confiscation in Masafer Yatta, near

Al-Khalil, where more than 1,200 Palestinians remain under threat of the destruction of their homes and community and forced transfer as the occupying Power persists with its ethnic cleansing of our land.

It is beyond question that Israel's military and settlers are working hand-in-glove to impose and entrench this illegal occupation. The constant use of force, violence and terror is aimed at creating a coercive environment to facilitate the seizure of more of the Palestinian land, but minus its indigenous Palestinian inhabitants, to enable Israel to carry on unimpeded with its illegal settlement colonization and annexation plans.

All such violations were roundly condemned in the 27 June Security Council meeting to consider the quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), yet nothing is being done in the face of such blatant contempt by Israel for the Council and its resolutions and for the Charter of the United Nations and the rule of law. As stated in the meeting by the Permanent Representative of Ireland, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason: "the Council has an obligation to ensure the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#). We are clearly failing in our duty to do that."

The international community must act now to implement international law where it is being so gravely breached in order to bring a halt to this brazen and destructive impunity. The Security Council has particular responsibilities in this regard. Only collective action – with concrete measures of accountability – can protect innocent civilian lives, bring an end to Israel's illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime, including its 15-year blockade of the Gaza Strip and enable the Palestinian people to finally realize their freedom and human rights and the justice and peace in their homeland they have too long been denied.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 758 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 ([A/55/432-S/2000/921](#)) to 20 June 2022 ([A/ES-10/905-S/2022/496](#)) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Minister
Permanent Observer