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**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE**

**Letter dated 18 November 2002 from the Permanent Observer
for Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed
to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Israeli occupation forces continue to escalate their aggression against the Palestinian people and its land, totally reoccupying most Palestinian towns, villages and camps, particularly in Hebron, Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem, where the Palestinian population is daily exposed to the most hideous crimes of killing and destruction. Since last Tuesday, hundreds of tanks and other heavy war machines have invaded Palestinian controlled areas, randomly shelling residential areas with artillery, helicopters and tanks. At least six homes have been demolished during the last couple of days in Hebron by the Israeli occupation forces, reaffirming once again Israel's plan to Judaize the old city and to reinforce its policy of creating facts on the ground. Since July this year, at least 61 Palestinian houses have been demolished, leaving more than 500 people homeless, including more than 220 children.

The Israeli occupation forces continue to conduct large campaigns of arrest, detaining daily scores of Palestinians, to invade civilians' homes, destroying their belongings and stealing their valuable items, to raze agricultural lands, to uproot trees, and to destroy water networks and crops, which constitute the basic and only means of subsistence for hundreds of Palestinian families currently on the verge of starvation. The Israeli occupation forces also continue to impose a strict curfew on most Palestinian towns, villages and camps, denying residents access to all facilities, including workplaces, schools and hospitals.

By the end of last week, Salma Mahmoud Sharhab, aged 21, from Nablus, was killed when Israeli forces shelled and fired randomly at civilian homes east of Nablus City. Also in Nablus, 16-year-old Omran Ashileh was shot in the chest by Israeli soldiers and killed instantly.

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Nablus City, including its refugee camps, remain under total curfew that denies residents free access. Ambulances are not permitted to move between the eastern and western parts of Nablus. The City of Nablus has been under renewed and reinforced siege since Tuesday, 12 November when around 150 tanks entered the city. There are Israeli snipers stationed all over the city, and at least eight private homes have been taken over by the army effectively holding the families hostage in their own homes. Nablus has been under constant siege and curfew since June this year.

In Jenin, Ibrahim Bassam Asadeh, aged 16, was killed by live ammunition shots to his chest and abdomen as he was leaving Jenin refugee camp.

Mahmoud Sulaiman Obeid, aged 32, was assassinated in his home. Israeli forces entered his house and executed him in front of his parents.

In Hebron, Israeli forces killed three Palestinians. After the incident, Israeli forces entered the entire city of Hebron and started to randomly shell and fire at homes. Hebron is under complete curfew, with Israeli forces reoccupying the entire city.

On Monday, 11 November, a 3-year-old Palestinian child was killed by Israeli troops in Rafah, the second child to be killed by the Israeli occupation forces in less than two days. Hamed Asa'ad Al-Masri was killed by a live bullet fired at his chest when his family was escaping heavy Israeli shelling at their neighbourhood in the Rafah refugee camp. His mother was seriously injured. Hamed was at least the 377th Palestinian child to be killed by the Israeli army since September 2000.

Jallal Mohammed Taher Awijan, aged 18, was shot and killed with live ammunition in the chest by Israeli troops in the Old City of Nablus.

All these crimes and acts committed by the Israeli occupation forces against innocent civilians constitute flagrant violations of Palestinian civilians' economic, social and cultural rights. They also constitute grave violations of international law and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949.

To further illustrate the daily human rights abuses and violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians, memorandums issued by the Palestinian National Authority covering the period from Sunday 10 to Sunday 17 November 2002 are enclosed herewith.

In view of the escalation of the already dramatic situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, we once again appeal to Your Excellency and, through you, to the international community to directly intervene with the Government of Israel, urging it to refrain from the savage aggression being launched by its occupation forces against our people and national institutions in most Palestinian towns, villages and camps, to stop its campaign of terror and State sponsored terrorism against our innocent civilian population, to stop killing our children, to abide by international norms and to live up to its obligations under international humanitarian law.

We also appeal to Your Excellency to use your good offices in order to have an international protection force or presence in Palestine to monitor the daily aggressions, massacres and crimes committed by Israel against our Palestinian people, to prevent the human rights violations and protect the Palestinian civilian population until Israel, the occupying Power, withdraws from all the occupied Palestinian territories.

I would be most grateful if you could arrange to have this letter and the annex thereto* circulated to the distinguished members of the Commission on Human Rights, as an official document of its fifty-ninth session under agenda item 8.

(Signed): Nabil RAMLAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People
From: 19.00hrs Sunday, November 10 - To: 19.00hrs Monday, November 11

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[2] Palestinian children were killed, [28] were injured among them [9] children including [3] critically and [15] were arrested. [105] Trees were uprooted & [67] dunams were bulldozed and [20] were confiscated. [38] Houses, [12] vehicles and [17] economic establishments were destroyed or damaged. [1] New military post was erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [19] times & bombarded by machinegun fire [26] times.

- ◆ *Jerusalem:* The occupation forces imposed curfew on Aizaria, Abu Dis and Sawahra Sharqia preventing students and workers from reaching their destinations. They also tightened military measures on entrances of Al Quds and erected military checkpoints, detained and attacked tens of Palestinians and prevented them from reaching Al Aqsa Mosque.
- ◆ *Tolkarem:* The occupation forces penetrated in the city opening indiscriminate gunfire, critically injuring a 9-year-old boy and imposing curfew on the city and its refugee camp.
- ◆ *Qalqilya:* The occupation forces imposed curfew in the town of Joyous and continued bulldozing more than [300] dunams of agricultural land for the separation fence purposes.
- ◆ *Bethlehem:* The occupation forces tightened its grip on the city, erected military points on entrances, prevented citizens' movement and arrested a Palestinian policeman.
- ◆ *Gaza:* The occupation Apaches launched a missile attack over the city, destroying metal workshops and nearby houses. Five Palestinians were injured in the attack.
- ◆ *Khan Yunis:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian residential houses in Al Amal and Al Gharbi neighborhoods critically wounding [2] Palestinians including one child. Meanwhile, eight Palestinians were arrested at the military checkpoints surrounding the city.
- ◆ *Rafah:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian residential houses in the area of Tel Sultan killing one baby and wounding four others including two children. An 8-year-old child died from wounds sustained earlier by occupation fire. The occupation troops invaded Palestinian areas in block "o", opened fire and wounded two children, demolished nine family houses and bulldozed vast area of land with olive trees near the Jewish-only settlement of Morag.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People
From: 19.00hrs Monday, November 11 - To: 19.00hrs Tuesday, November 12

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[12] Palestinians were injured among them [6] children including [1] critically and [13] were arrested. [40] Trees were uprooted & [12] dunams were bulldozed. [12] Houses, [6] vehicles and [5] economic establishments were destroyed or damaged. [2] New military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [12] times & bombarded by machinegun fire [16] times.

- ◆ *Ramallah & Al Birah:* The occupation forces invaded and imposed curfew in Daer Abu Meshal village, detained Palestinians above the age of 14 in the village's school and arrested ten citizens.
- ◆ *Nablus:* Jewish settlers confiscated the olive harvest of Palestinians in the village of Yanoun and the eastern areas.
- ◆ *Jenin:* The occupation forces invaded Kharouba neighborhood, searched & ransacked houses, robbed the money of a Palestinian family and bulldozed the entrances of the city.
- ◆ *Tolkarem:* The occupation forces opening fire critically injuring a 9-year-old boy, demolished a family house in Shweka neighborhood and damaged many neighboring houses. They also stormed in Rameen village, searched & ransacked houses and arrested three citizens.
- ◆ *Qalqilya:* The occupation forces imposed curfew in Nabi Ilyass area, stormed houses and searched neighboring fields.
- ◆ *Salfeet:* A shell left by the occupation forces exploded and injured two Palestinian children.
- ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces raided Beit Kahel & Farsh El Hawa areas and erected roadblocks, searched houses and closed Wadi Kaf street. They also attacked several Palestinian neighborhoods in the Old City.
- ◆ *Bethlehem:* The occupation forces raided Aroob refugee camp using fire and gas bombs and forced Palestinians to gather in public areas and tortured them.
- ◆ *Jericho:* The occupation forces erected military roadblocks on Aghwar road and prevented trucks of fruits and vegetables from reaching the West Bank cities and tortured passengers and the ill.
- ◆ *Gaza:* The occupation forces bombarded Zahra city damaging houses.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Tuesday, November 12 - To: 19.00hrs Wednesday, November 13

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[1] Palestinian child was killed, [27] were injured among them [11] children including [2] critically and [54] were arrested. [390] Trees were uprooted & [90] dunams were bulldozed. [33] Houses, [17] vehicles and [16] economic establishments were destroyed or damaged. [1] New military post was erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [17] times & bombarded by machinegun fire [31] times.

- ◆ *Ramallah & Al Birah:* The occupation forces stormed, searched and ransacked the students' dormitories and residential houses in the city of Ber Zeit and arrested [20] Palestinians including [16] students.
- ◆ *Nablus:* The occupation forces invaded the city, villages and refugee camps, opened machinegun fire and tank shells at Palestinians and their houses, stormed tens of houses, took over several buildings and transformed them into military bases, imposed curfew and arrested more than [20] Palestinians.
- ◆ *Jenin:* The occupation forces invaded Palestinian houses in Sanour, Toubas and Al Araqa villages, blew up a family house, arrested four Palestinians, forced Palestinians to close their shops and detained tens of vehicles.
- ◆ *Tolkarem:* The occupation forces destroyed lands and properties in the city.
- ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces continued to tighten the siege on the city and invaded Palestinian houses in the village of Bet Amr and Al Arroub refugee camp, fired gas bombs and stun grenades at Palestinians injuring a number of them and erected several new checkpoints.
- ◆ *Gaza:* The occupation Apaches bombarded and destroyed metal workshops and damaged several nearby houses.
- ◆ *Khan Yunis:* The occupation forces bombarded and damaged Palestinian houses in the area of AL Rabwat and Al Areesha, arrested five Palestinians at Al Matahen military checkpoint, bulldozed [30] dunams of land in Al Qarara, including [150] olive trees and ten dunams with vegetables. One Palestinian was critically injured when the occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian vehicles.
- ◆ *Rafah:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses in the area of Block J killing a three-year-old Palestinian child and critically wounding his mother.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People
From: 19.00hrs Wednesday, November 13
To: 19.00hrs Thursday, November 14

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[2] Palestinians were killed among them one child, [21] were injured among them [8] children including [2] critically and [24] were arrested. [620] Trees were uprooted & [90] dunams were bulldozed. [25] Houses, [11] vehicles and [8] economic establishments and [4] greenhouses were destroyed or damaged. [1] New military post was erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [16] times & bombarded by machinegun fire [33] times.

- ◆ *Ramallah & Al Birah:* The occupation forces arrested two brothers of the same family on the road of Ramallah-Jerusalem and arrested many others in a community breakfast.
- ◆ *Nablus:* A 17-year-old Palestinian youth was killed and another was critically wounded when the occupation forces opened indiscriminate fire at residential houses.
- ◆ *Jenin:* Jewish settlers, under protection of the Israeli Army, prevented a Swiss delegation from assisting Palestinian farmers in the village of Aaba Sharqia.
- ◆ *Tolkarem:* The occupation forces invaded the city, imposed curfew and transformed a residential building into a military post. They also invaded Shweika suburb and imposed curfew, opened fire at residential houses, conducted house-to-house search, blew up residential houses (causing severe damage to nearby houses) and arrested two Palestinians.
- ◆ *Qalqilia:* The occupation forces reinforced its presence on entrances of the city, imposed curfew, and continued to bulldoze agricultural land for the separation fence.
- ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces stormed residential houses in the villages of Yatta and Dora, opened indiscriminate fire at residential houses arresting one Palestinian and injuring many others. They also opened fire and tear gas canisters at students wounding three of them. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers of Tel Rumeidah stolen the harvest of olives by force.

- ◆ *Gaza:* Israeli forces backed by 30 tanks and helicopters stormed into central Gaza, opened heavy fire at residential houses stormed houses, looted and ransacked properties, arrested four Palestinians among them one security official and bulldozed vast area of agricultural land. Four Palestinians were wounded.
- ◆ *North Gaza:* The occupation forces, under cover of heavy fire, stormed houses, ransacked properties and concentrated Palestinians and used them as human shield while conducting house-to-house search.
- ◆ *Mid Area:* The occupation forces penetrated into the area under cover of fire, bulldozed vast area of agricultural land irrigation network, damaged water wells, arrested one Palestinian near the Jewish settlement of Kfar Daroom and delivered his family an order of house demolition.
- ◆ *Khan Yunis:* The occupation forces bombarded with heavy gunfire and round shells Palestinian residential houses in Al Amal suburb and the western camp critically wounding a 17-year-old youth and causing severe damage to private and public properties.
- ◆ *Rafah:* a 36-year-old Palestinian was killed when the occupation forces opened indiscriminate fire at residential houses in Barazil suburb wounding another Palestinian.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Thursday, November 14

To: 19.00hrs Friday, November 15

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[1] Palestinian child was killed, [14] were injured among them [6] children including [1] critically and [36] were arrested. [345] Trees were uprooted & [32] dunams were bulldozed. [17] Houses, [11] vehicles, [7] economic establishments and [4] greenhouses were destroyed or damaged. [3] New military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [9] times & bombarded by machinegun fire [26] times.

- ◆ *Jerusalem:* The occupation forces prevented thousands of worshippers from reaching the holy mosque, erecting more military points at entrances and within the Old City.
- ◆ *Nablus:* The occupation forces continue to tighten grips over the city and its refugee camps, storming residential buildings and commercial establishments and arresting tens of Palestinians. The occupation soldiers also opened fire at Palestinians killing a 16-year-old boy and injuring two others.
- ◆ *Jenin:* The occupation forces invaded Palestinian houses in the village of Al Zababda and arrested [8] Palestinians.
- ◆ *Tolkarem:* Jewish settlers of Harmish continue bulldozing lands and destroying olive trees near the settlement.
- ◆ *Qalqilya:* The occupation forces arrested nine foreigners of solidarity groups who came to demonstrate against the building of the so-called security wall.
- ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces invaded Palestinian houses in Al Jabber neighborhood, attacked and detained tens of youths and Jewish settlers attacked a French delegation helping Palestinians in the olive harvest.
- ◆ *Bethlehem:* The occupation forces invaded Palestinian houses in the city of Bet Sahour and arrested two Palestinians.
- ◆ *North Gaza:* The occupation forces demolished a family house and a security post in Al Soudania and destroyed all the trees in the area of the house.
- ◆ *Mid Area:* The occupation forces bulldozed vast areas of agricultural land in Der Al Balah including five greenhouses and nine dunams of land with palm trees and vegetables.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Friday, November 15

To: 19.00hrs Saturday, November 16

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[3] Palestinians were killed, one of them is a child, [39] were injured among them [8] children including [4] critically and [60] were arrested. [37] Houses, [16] vehicles, [19] economic establishments and [3] security posts were destroyed or damaged. [9] New military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [18] times & bombarded by machinegun fire [33] times.

- ◆ *Jerusalem:* The occupation forces raided the town of Alram using gunfire & gas bombs causing suffocation to many citizens and attacked store owners.
- ◆ *Ramallah & Al Birah:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses causing damage, erected a roadblock near the President's HQ and prevented journalists from reaching the compound, searched cars and attacked drivers. They also stormed in the villages of Beit Rema & Bari Zied, searched & ransacked houses, arrested three citizens, transformed a family house into a military post, used a Palestinian citizen and his vehicle as human shield and attacked an ambulance driver and tortured his 7-years-old son.
- ◆ *Nablus:* The occupation forces shot and killed a 21-year-old girl, continued to impose curfew on the city, bombarded the Moqatta and stormed houses and arrested a number of Palestinians.
- ◆ *Jenin:* The occupation forces assassinated Mahmoud Abass Obied (28) in Anza village and killed Ibrahim Bassam Al Sadi (17) in Jenin refugee camp, wounded and arrested several Palestinians in several neighborhoods and stormed several houses. They also stormed a house in Taybeh village and ordered the landlady to remove he husband's grave to enlarge a military road.
- ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces invaded the city and re-occupied it, took over buildings and transformed them into military posts, arrested [41] Palestinians, bombarded & damaged houses, wounded three citizens, besieged houses and kicked journalists out of H2 area in the city.
- ◆ *Bethlehem:* The occupation forces erected two roadblocks and attacked Palestinian citizens.

- ◆ *Gaza:* The occupation Apaches bombarded & destroyed a metal workshop, wounded eight citizens, and damaged several adjacent houses. They also bombarded & damaged a factory of Oxygen.
- ◆ *North Gaza:* The occupation forces bombarded houses in Beit Hanoun.
- ◆ *Mid Area:* Dair Al Balah city suffers a severe shortage of water caused by the occupation bulldozing of water network.
- ◆ *Khan Younis:* The occupation forces bombarded Shalehat area causing damage.
- ◆ *Rafah:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses near the border area and wounded a 12-years-old child.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People
From: 19.00hrs Saturday, November 16 - To: 19.00hrs Sunday, November 17

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[4] Palestinians were killed, [35] were injured among them [4] children including [4] critically and [44] were arrested. [500] Trees were uprooted & [515] dunams & [15] green houses were bulldozed. [71] Houses, [39] vehicles, [24] economic establishments and [4] security posts were destroyed or damaged. [8] New military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [30] times & bombarded by machinegun fire [42] times.

- ◆ *Rāmallah & Al Birah:* The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian stores and houses setting some of them to fire.
- ◆ *Nablus:* The occupation forces tightened its blockade on the city, closed many roads, opened fire at Palestinians trying to move and bulldozed two family hoses and damaged several others.
- ◆ *Jenin:* The occupation forces tightened the siege on the city, closed several roads, stormed houses, arrested a number of citizens and confiscated a vast areas of Palestinian land in Tanak village.
- ◆ *Tolkarem:* The occupation forces continued to imposes curfew on the entire city for the twelfth consecutive day, opened machinegun fire at houses and injured seven citizens, shot at children in the Eastern Neighborhood and wounded one of them, circled & bombarded a houses and injured one citizen.
- ◆ *Qalqilya:* The occupation forces shot to death a 65-years-old shepherd and bulldozed hundreds of dunams of agricultural land & greenhouses for the Security Fence threatening to isolate [6000] dunams & [19] water wells.
- ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces shot dead three Palestinians, demolished eight family houses, stormed houses, arrested tens of Palestinian and continue to impose a stringent curfew on the entire city and its neighborhoods.
- ◆ *Gaza:* The occupation forces fired at Palestinian vehicle wounding one citizen.
- ◆ *North Gaza:* The occupation forces continue to bulldoze Palestinian land & houses near Doghiet settlement in order to annex them to the settlement and fired at Palestinian fishermen & their stock causing damage.
- ◆ *Khan Younis:* The occupation Apaches bombarded two metal workshops causing damage to the workshops and neighboring houses.