

**General Assembly  
Security Council**

Distr.: General  
19 May 2022  
English  
Original: Arabic

**General Assembly  
Seventy-sixth session  
Agenda item 38  
The situation in the Middle East**

**Security Council  
Seventy-seventh year**

**Identical letters dated 12 May 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the  
General Assembly**

As Kuwait is Chair of the Group of Arab States for May 2022, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 May 2022 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations (see annex), which he wishes to have transmitted along with the following enclosures:

1. A press release issued on 11 May 2022 citing the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit condemning the killing of the *Al-Jazeera* correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh by Israeli gunfire.
2. A statement adopted by the Group of Arab States in New York following the killing of the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh on 11 May 2022.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bader A. **Almunayekh**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the identical letters dated 12 May 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly**

**Letter dated 12 May 2022 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations**

In keeping with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the Chair of each ministerial or summit session of the Council of the League of Arab States, or the Chair of the Group of Arab States in New York, is charged with transmitting the relevant resolutions or documents to the appropriate United Nations bodies by means of an official memorandum or letter from the Permanent Observer Mission for the League of Arab States to the United Nations, and in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the following:

1. A press release issued on 11 May 2022 citing the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit (see enclosure 1), condemning the killing of the *Al-Jazeera* correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh by Israeli gunfire.
2. A statement adopted by the Group of Arab States in New York (see enclosure 2) following the killing of the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh on 11 May 2022.

In accordance with the instructions of the secretariat of the League and with the relevant procedures followed by the Group of Arab States in New York, I should be grateful if you would transmit the present letter and its enclosures to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council for issuance as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Maged Abdelfattah **Abdelaziz**  
Head of the Observer Mission, New York

**Enclosure 1**  
**Press release**

**Aboul Gheit condemns the killing of *Al-Jazeera* correspondent  
Shireen Abu Akleh by Israeli gunfire**

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, condemns in the strongest terms the killing of the journalist Shirin Abu Akleh, a correspondent for *Al-Jazeera*, by Israeli gunfire. He stresses that this horrific crime against the freedom of the press and freedom of opinion cannot be overlooked; there must be a comprehensive investigation.

The Secretary-General expresses his condolences to the family of the deceased, to the Palestinian and Arab press and the *Al-Jazeera* network, and to the Palestinian people as a whole. He wishes a speedy recovery for the journalist who was injured in the attack.

According to an official source in the secretariat of the League, the Secretary-General emphasizes that this brutal crime comes as no surprise. The occupation has made a point of disregarding all human rights standards and of silencing the Palestinian voice. The Secretary-General holds the Israeli Government fully responsible for this shocking crime and insists that the criminals who committed it must be brought to justice.

The Secretary-General is convinced that Ms. Abu Akleh's name will be added to the glorious but tragic list of those Arab journalists who have given their lives to defend the truth and bring the Palestinian voice to the whole world.

## **Enclosure 2**

### **League of Arab States**

#### **Statement of the Group of Arab States at the United Nations concerning the killing of the Palestinian journalist and *Al-Jazeera* correspondent Shirin Abu Akleh by gunfire in a treacherous ambush on the morning of 11 May 2022**

The Group of Arab States at the United Nations in New York has heard with great sadness the tragic news of the killing of the Palestinian journalist Shirin Abu Akleh, a correspondent for the Qatari news network *Al-Jazeera*, in a treacherous ambush using live ammunition. Ms. Abu Akleh had been bravely and worthily fulfilling her duty as a journalist, covering the flagrant Israeli violations in the city of Jenin. She was wearing a jacket with internationally recognized press markings. She gave her life to fulfil her duty as a journalist and uphold freedom of the press and of opinion.

The Group of Arab States at the United Nations extends its deepest condolences to the family of Shirin Abu Akleh in the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem, and to the free Palestinian people and leadership in the State of Palestine under Israeli occupation. This killing is part of a long list of heinous crimes committed by the Israeli occupation. It is the latest in a shameful record of bare-faced attacks on the defenceless Palestinian people. Such attacks show Israel's contempt for the rules of international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The Group condemns forcefully and in the strongest possible terms Israel's ongoing deliberate escalation of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around Al-Quds al-Sharif (Jerusalem). Israel has not been held accountable by the international community – not by the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the International Criminal Court, or any other United Nations body responsible for protecting the Palestinian people under occupation from the brutal attacks of the Israeli military occupation forces and the Israeli settlers who act under their protection. Such attacks have taken place, in particular, in the city of East Jerusalem, which is the capital of the independent State of Palestine and the heart of the monotheistic religions, as it is home to the holy Aqsa Mosque and historic churches that are central to the Islamic and Christian worlds alike.

The Group endorses the statement made by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. It calls on the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take immediate action to ensure the conduct of a fair, independent and transparent international investigation into the treacherous murder of Shireen Abu Akleh and the injury of her colleagues under live fire while they were fulfilling their noble journalistic mission and doing credit to their profession. The Group urges those bodies to ensure that the political and military officials responsible for perpetrating this treacherous act against the victims and against the freedom of the press are immediately brought to international justice.

The Group reiterates its previous appeals, most recently in the statement before the Security Council at its meeting of 25 March 2022, for all United Nations bodies to address the question of Palestine in a spirit of justice, without double standards, just as they have taken a hands-on political and judicial approach to other contemporary issues. Such action should include an immediate investigation into the documented Israeli crimes against the defenceless Palestinian people, crimes that have been reported every week in letters from the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine. United Nations bodies should also provide the necessary protection

for the defenceless Palestinian people, including journalists in flashpoints on occupied territory.

The Group emphasizes the need to imagine and create new political horizons. Intensive efforts should be made, in a spirit of good will, to fulfil the hopes of a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and, in particular, the question of Palestine, which is at its heart. For that purpose, a two-State solution should be implemented, on the basis of international law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. An independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, should be established on the borders of 4 June 1967. The Quartet should meet immediately at the ministerial level to start preparing for an international conference, under United Nations auspices, to launch direct negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, as proposed in person by the Palestinian President, Abu Mazen, before the Security Council and the General Assembly, with a view to reaching a peaceful settlement and achieving peace and security for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples alike.

Palestine and its free martyrs in journalism and politics will live on in the soul of the Arab nation until the dawn of freedom which, we hope, will soon come.

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