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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 15 April 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, following the same aggressive, destructive and deadly pattern as in years past, particularly in the holy month of Ramadan, Israel, the occupying Power, is recklessly inflaming tensions, anger and religious sensitivities with its incursions at the Haram al-Sharif/Aqsa Mosque and violent assaults on Palestinian worshippers.

Once again, we must therefore reiterate our warnings about the far-reaching ramifications of such ongoing and escalating provocations by Israeli occupation forces and extremist Jewish settlers, which are threatening to trigger a religious war in Jerusalem if they are not stopped.

The Palestinian leadership and people condemn in the strongest terms the violent raid by Israeli occupation forces early this morning on the Haram al-Sharif/Aqsa Mosque and the attacks on the Palestinian men, women and children who had gathered there for the dawn prayers.

These attacks constitute grave violations of the rights of our people, including to worship freely, peacefully and without fear, grave violations of the historic and legal status quo at this most sensitive holy site, and grave violations of Israel's obligations as the occupying Power, under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and the numerous relevant United Nations resolutions. For all of these violations, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held fully accountable.

This latest Israeli attack caused injuries to more than 150 people, most of whom were hit by rubber bullets, stun grenades and tear gas fired at them or were beaten by Israeli soldiers, as widely documented in video footage and photographs. Dozens of others were hurt as they tried to flee in the panic that ensued when the occupying forces entered the compound.

More than 60 of the injured were taken to hospitals, as they were struck in the upper parts of their bodies. Israeli occupation forces also obstructed medics from reaching the injured and assaulted journalists and medical personnel. Among the



many injured were elderly men and women who had come to the Aqsa Mosque to pray. Israeli occupation forces also forcibly detained more than 400 Palestinians.

Moreover, the occupying forces' violent and reckless actions caused damage throughout the holy site. Historic glass windows near the roof of the Aqsa Mosque were destroyed in order to shoot grenades and rubber-coated metal bullets at worshippers, significant damage was done to the carpet, and the minbar, where the imam leads the prayers, was also damaged.

The chaos and panic deliberately caused by Israeli occupation forces in occupied East Jerusalem has also marred the observances of Christian worshippers on this Good Friday before Easter, heightening anxieties and fears of further provocations and assaults, including by extremist Jewish settlers, who continue to incite and threaten to breach the Haram al-Sharif/Aqsa Mosque on this eve of Passover. This is in addition to the many restrictions imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the access of worshippers to the City.

As warned in our letter yesterday, 14 April, the convergence of the Muslim, Christian and Jewish holidays and the volatility of the situation compel greater vigilance to ensure the protection of civilians and holy sites that continue to come under assault by an occupying Power that is breaching all legal and moral obligations incumbent upon it.

We therefore call once again on the international community, and in particular the Security Council, in light of its duty under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, to act urgently and responsibly to defuse this extremely dangerous situation and to protect civilian lives.

Israel, the occupying Power, must be unequivocally demanded to halt its assaults, provocations and crimes against the Palestinian people and against the holy sites in Jerusalem and to immediately withdraw all of its forces from the Haram al-Sharif/Aqsa Mosque. It must moreover be demanded to fully respect the historic and legal status quo at the Haram al-Sharif/Aqsa Mosque and the authority of the Islamic Waqf and custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to administer and protect this holy site. Israel must be further demanded to release all Palestinians illegally detained today at the holy compound.

Moreover, the international community must demand that Israel respect its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and the many relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions [476 \(1980\)](#), [478 \(1980\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#). We appeal also to all States and organizations to uphold their responsibilities in this regard under international law. This is vital to ensure protection to the defenceless Palestinian people and ensure accountability to bring pressure to bear on Israel, the occupying Power, in order to bring an end to its crimes and an end to its illegal and inhumane occupation of the Palestinian people, their land and holy sites.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 749 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 14 April 2022 ([A/ES-10/896-S/2022/318](#)) 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*) Riyadh **Mansour**
Minister
Permanent Observer
