



# General Assembly Security Council

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**General Assembly**  
**Tenth emergency special session**  
Agenda item 5  
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the  
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**  
**Seventy-seventh year**

## **Identical letters dated 19 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**

The present letter is in follow-up to our 750 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 15 April 2022 (A/ES-10/897-S/2022/321) 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.

We call on the Security Council to overcome its prolonged paralysis on the Palestine question and act without further delay to uphold its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions in order to lead the international efforts in this regard. It is unconscionable that the collective, repeated warnings about Israel's incessant crimes and attacks in Occupied Palestine continue to go unanswered.

Israel's repeated provocation of religious tensions, which has again marred the observance of Ramadan, Easter and Passover for millions of the faithful, is dangerously inflaming already-volatile conditions. Complacency in the face of this explosive situation is reckless. Responsible and urgent action is needed to bring an end to such illegal and destructive policies and practices, to protect human lives and to engage seriously in the efforts to reach a just solution to this decades-long injustice.

Otherwise, it is clear that Israel, the occupying Power, will carry on with its crimes against the Palestinian people and their holy sites with zero regard for the consequences, as seen in its repeated assaults on the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and Palestinian worshippers, its deadly force against Palestinian civilians, including children, and, now, its resumption of air strikes against the besieged Gaza Strip, once again endangering civilian lives and causing wilful destruction.



We reiterate our appeals to the international community to act to protect the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif from attacks by Israel, the occupying Power, and its extremist settlers. International law and the historic and legal status quo at this holy site are being gravely violated, making it of utmost urgency to ensure such protection and avert a calamity with far-reaching repercussions.

Israeli occupation forces have carried out three incursions on this holy site in less than 72 hours. Heavily armed soldiers have beaten worshippers with steel batons, firing at them with grenades and rubber-coated metal bullets, causing further injuries to men, women and children. Whether it is a father being beaten in front of his son, a pregnant woman being senselessly struck, medical personnel being ambushed, or defenceless worshippers bashed on the head countless times, the savagery of Israel and its criminal forces is on full display for all the world to witness.

Moreover, knowing there is no accountability, extremist Jewish groups recklessly persist with their provocations and incitement to carry out sacrificial rituals at the Haram al-Sharif. Yesterday, Israeli occupation forces again raided the compound in order to escort and enable the entry of hundreds of Israeli settlers and extremists. Israeli occupation forces blocked all gates and locked Palestinian worshippers inside the Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. Israeli extremists chanted, inter alia, “*Nakba*” and “Abu Khdeir”, referencing the expulsion of Palestinians from their land in 1948 and the Palestinian child, Mohammed Abu Khdeir, who was burned alive by Israeli settlers in 2014. What was on full display was one group being brutalized and the other group being privileged, a gross display of the abhorrent, segregated and colonial reality in Palestine.

And yet, no action is taken to protect our people, a people enduring a colonial occupation for over half a century, suffering the cruelest apartheid policies and still denied the right to defend themselves.

According to the Palestine Red Crescent Society, more than 200 Palestinians have been injured and nearly 500 have been imprisoned as a result of such raids and attacks by Israeli occupation forces. We reiterate the call made by the incoming Special Rapporteur, Francesca Albanese: “Places of worship, as an extension of freedom of religion, must be protected, especially on holy days. Intentionally attacking civilians not taking direct part in hostilities, as well as civilian objects that are not military objectives constitute war crimes under the ICC Statute.”

Regrettably, those who continue to call on “both sides” fail to accept the asymmetry stemming from Israel’s oppressive policies and belligerent occupation and the fact that there is an aggressor and a victim. The Israeli Prime Minister has repeatedly declared that Israeli occupation forces have a “free hand” to attack, while Palestinians have nothing to defend themselves. It is time for the international community to loudly reject the absurd and offensive narrative of an occupying Power armed to the teeth “defending itself” from the civilian population it is occupying, oppressing, traumatizing and terrorizing every single day.

This is the reality the Palestinian people are living. This includes the families in Gaza who are now fearing yet another Israeli military onslaught, as warplanes fly overhead threatening to bring more death and destruction to the 2 million people inhumanely besieged there by Israel. This is the reality of the countless families who are mourning their loved ones, children, women and men, killed in cold blood by the occupying Power and who continue to await justice.

This includes the family of the young Palestinian girl, Hanan Mahmoud Khadour, age 18, who died yesterday of wounds sustained in an Israeli attack on Jenin on 9 April. Hanan was shot in the stomach by Israeli occupation forces while she was on her way to school. And includes the family of the young Palestinian boy, Shawkat

Kamal Abed, age 17, who died on 15 April after being shot by Israeli occupation forces in his village of Kafr Dan near Janin. Shawkat was struck with an exploding bullet that ruptured his blood vessels and veins.

Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people and its illegal schemes to alter the demography, character and status of Jerusalem, including the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif, are well documented and irrefutable. The fact is that grave breaches are being perpetrated, including those deemed war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

It is incumbent on the international community, particularly the Security Council and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to uphold their respective duties and use all means and measures afforded by international law to finally hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable.

Israel cannot select which laws it wishes to respect or which resolution it wishes to implement, acting as though it were a law-abiding State when in reality it is breaching every single rule of international law and every principle enshrined in the Charter, secure in its impunity, assuming it will never face accountability. Likewise, the international community cannot continue treating Israel as though it were a law-abiding State and cannot continue to justify selectivity in upholding the rule of law when it comes to this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

It is time to end this criminal impunity. The Security Council must end its silence and stand firm against the grave human rights violations and war crimes being perpetrated against the Palestinian people, who continue to appeal for the protection of the law and for the international community to act in their defence.

We reiterate our calls for protection for the Palestinian civilian population living under Israel's illegal occupation, including the dispatch of an international protection force to ensure the safety of the civilian population and ensure humanitarian access.

We reiterate our calls for respect for the historic and legal status quo Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and for respect for the authority of the Islamic Waqf and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's custodianship, with which the Palestinian leadership is in close coordination to ensure the protection of this most sensitive holy site.

We reiterate our calls for the mobilization of regional and international efforts to bring an end to this grave injustice, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, to enable the Palestinian people to live in freedom, peace, security and dignity in their homeland.

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