



# 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 31 August 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**

I am compelled to once again draw attention to the plight of the thousands of Palestinians arbitrarily detained and unlawfully imprisoned by Israel, the occupying Power. Over 4,500 Palestinians are being held captive under the most deplorable conditions, subjected to psychological and physical maltreatment and violence, medical negligence, collective punishment and torture, in grave violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In follow-up to my letter of 17 August regarding the plight of several Palestinians illegally incarcerated by Israel, I must again underscore the alarming plight of Khalil Awawdeh, aged 40 and the father of four daughters, who has been on hunger strike for 172 days to protest his unlawful imprisonment and to demand his freedom. Although Khalil became emaciated, reduced to skin and bones, his life at imminent risk, the occupying Power continued to insist on his imprisonment. While reports indicate that Israel has decided to release Khalil in the coming month and he will end his hunger strike, we continue to draw attention to his plight, as Israel has repeatedly reneged on such commitments, prolonging the suffering of our prisoners and their families.

We urge the international community to continue to exert the necessary pressure on Israel to ensure that Khalil Awawdeh is released, returns to his family and receives the emergency medical treatment he needs to restore his health and save his life. Moreover, we urge the international community to act in accordance with international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, to demand that Israel cease all such inhumane policies and practices against the Palestinian people in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and that it release all Palestinian political prisoners, including children, women and elected officials.

What has happened to Khalil and is happening to prisoners like the 20-year-old disabled youth Ahmed Manasra, human rights defender Salah Hammouri, and humanitarian aid worker Mohammed Halabi – who was sentenced yesterday by Israel



to 12 years in prison based on secret charges and coerced confession and in total contradiction of the evidence and facts of his case – and what is happening to the thousands of other Palestinian prisoners and to the millions of Palestinians under Israel's illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime must not be normalized or accepted under any circumstances. What is being done to our people is abnormal, inhumane and unlawful, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the crime of apartheid, as our people are being hunted down by the Israeli occupying forces and arbitrarily detained and jailed because of who they are – Palestinians, not Jews – and for refusing to submit to Israel's foreign occupation and its subjugation of our people and colonization of our land.

Such deliberate, systematic, illegal policies and actions by the occupying Power are terrorizing and persecuting our people and manifesting in countless societal traumas, including among children, women and youth. No one should have to live this way; there can be no justification for not only imprisoning thousands of Palestinians, but for holding our entire people captive for decades, depriving them of their inalienable human rights, including self-determination and freedom.

We thus reiterate our demand for the freedom of Khalil Awawdeh and of all other Palestinians being wrongfully and cruelly detained and imprisoned by Israel, the occupying Power. We further call for a halt to Israel's daily detention and arrest raids, by which it continues to harass, intimidate and repress our people, with young men especially targeted and terrorized, adding to the numbers of those imprisoned in the occupier's jails.

The Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court all have responsibilities in this regard, in accordance with their respective mandates, and must act to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its crimes against the Palestinian people in order to bring an end to this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime and an end to this historic injustice.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 763 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 17 August 2022 ([A/ES-10/910-S/2022/628](#)) 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