



# General Assembly Security Council

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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 13 October 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**

Every single day Palestinian children and youth are being killed, injured, detained, abused and traumatized by Israel, the occupying Power.

Israeli occupying forces, including the armed settler militias marauding throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, have been indoctrinated to believe that Palestinian lives do not matter, that Israel is a State above the law that will never be held accountable for its crimes, and that they can carry on terrorizing the Palestinian people with absolute impunity fearing no consequences.

Regrettably, the Security Council's continued paralysis and the international community's inability to uphold the Charter of the United Nations and apply the same rules of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in all circumstances has only fuelled this brazen impunity. The outcome has been devastating for the Palestinian people under Israel's illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime and especially for children.

As of the start of 2022, Israeli occupying forces have killed over 45 Palestinian children in attacks across Occupied Palestine, including the Gaza Strip. In recent weeks, Israeli military raids have particularly escalated in cities, towns, villages and refugee camps across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with more and more Palestinian children being killed, maimed and arrested by the Israeli occupying forces with absolutely no regard for their status as children and their fundamental human rights, including under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This pattern of targeting and persecuting children, particularly boys, clearly aims at creating a most coercive and intimidating environment for Palestinian families to quash any form of legitimate resistance to this criminal occupation and apartheid regime.

Among the most recent victims of Israel's deadly attacks on Palestinian children are: 12 year-old Mahmoud Samoudi, who succumbed to wounds sustained after Israeli occupying forces shot him in the abdomen 12 days prior in a raid on Jenin; 14-year old Adel Adel Daud; 17-year old Mahdi Ladadwa; 17-year old Mahmoud Sous;



17-year old Fayez Khaled Damdoun; and 17-year old Osama Mahmoud Adawi, whose funeral also came under the attack of Israeli forces.

In nearly all instances, Israeli soldiers shot at these children with live fire in the upper parts of their bodies, further exposing Israel's shoot-to-kill policy when it comes to Palestinian civilians. The killing of these boys has left their families grieving and devastated and shocked their communities, among whom it is becoming clearer and clearer that the occupying forces will spare no Palestinian life, young or old.

In another shocking incident, on 29 September, a 7-year-old boy, Rayan Suleiman, was found dead after running in fear from Israeli soldiers. Rayan had been walking home from school when Israeli occupying forces chased him and his brothers. After the boys reached their home, soldiers came and demanded that the father turn over the children, threatening to arrest them. Moments later, Rayan fell dead after suffering a heart attack. A medical examiner later confirmed that he did not have any medical conditions or other injuries, confirming the conclusion that he was in fact frightened to death, his heart stopping from the sheer terror of raiding soldiers. Rayan's tragic death is not an isolated incident. Rather, it is part of Israel's decades-long policy of harassment, intimidation and violence against Palestinians, including children, a systematic policy causing wanton death and injury to civilians and constituting grave breaches under international humanitarian law.

Yet, as usual, Israel, the occupying Power, made sure to absolve its soldiers of any blame, failing once again to ensure accountability, even in the case of the death of such a young, innocent child. Instead, a week later, the Israeli military denied any responsibility for his death and defended the actions of its soldiers, who literally hunt down little children, reinforcing the impunity they have long enjoyed and the ongoing dangers to the well-being and lives of Palestinian children living under this nightmare occupation.

We cannot underscore enough the depth of the trauma and terror being inflicted on Palestinian children by Israel and all of its occupying forces. At this moment, thousands of families in the Shufat refugee camp and adjacent town of Anata, as well as in Al-Aroub refugee camp near Al-Khalil (Hebron) and in the city of Nablus, are being besieged by occupying forces that have sealed off entrance and exit from these areas and are collectively punishing their residents.

The Israeli lockdown of the Shufat refugee camp in particular has been fierce following an attack at a checkpoint at the camp's entrance on 8 October and protests by camp residents against ongoing raids and assaults on the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque by extremist Jewish settlers, in violation of the historic and legal status quo at the Holy Site, international law and all moral and religious norms and values. Moreover, Israeli settlers continue to rampage throughout the rest of Occupied Palestine, attacking Palestinians and damaging homes, businesses and other properties, including smashing windows on terrified families and torching orchards, parks and vehicles.

Such widespread violence and Israel's imposition of siege in response to any and all incidents of rejection of its illegal colonial occupation and crimes exposes its readiness to suffocate Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, much as they have been doing to Palestinians in Gaza, imprisoning them under a more than 15-year medieval, inhuman siege that has no precedent, with no regard for the life, well-being and rights of any child, woman and man under its control.

We reiterate our standing call on the international community, including the Security Council, to act forthwith in line with international law, including the relevant United Nations resolutions, to redress this appalling situation. It cannot be that a people's human rights are so grossly violated and that humanitarian law is so

flagrantly breached without consequence and that a people are left vulnerable and defenceless in the face of such wanton brutality.

We thus reiterate our calls for urgent international intervention to protect the Palestinian people, including in particular children, whose lives and futures are gravely endangered by this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime. The Palestinian people cannot be the exception to the right to protection and self-defence. The protections afforded to all civilians under international humanitarian law must be enacted, and United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [904 \(1994\)](#), in which the Council called on Israel, inter alia, to undertake “the confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers” and called for “measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory, including, inter alia, a temporary international or foreign presence”, must be implemented without delay.

Immediate steps must also be taken to hold Israel, its military and settlers, accountable for all illegal policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. There is no other way to bring pressure to bear to make its criminal actions more costly and bring them to an end in order to ultimately bring an end to this glaring, historic injustice. The world cannot continue exempting Israel from responsibility for its war crimes and crimes against humanity. The time now is for accountability, it is the key to saving human lives and opening a political horizon towards the achievement justice and a lasting peace that guarantees the Palestinian people’s inalienable human rights and actualizes the two-State solution on the pre-1967 lines enshrined in United Nations resolutions.

This letter is in follow-up to our 766 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 28 September 2022 ([A/ES-10/913-S/2022/719](#)) 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