



# General Assembly Security Council

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**General Assembly**  
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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 13 December 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 human security of the Palestinian people is being violated every single day by Israel, as it persists with its violence and terror against them, killing, injuring, maiming and traumatizing civilians in a grave breach of all norms and tenets of international law and any sense of humanity.

No one is safe, not man, woman or child, as Israeli soldiers and settler militias target Palestinian civilians, carrying out the plans and orders of the Israeli government, which, for decades, has systematically violated the human rights of our people as a matter of policy, deliberate in its intent to harm and to diminish the Palestinian presence and will to resist Israel's illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

Since my previous letter, Israel, the occupying Power, has perpetrated countless human rights abuses and violations amounting to war crimes, including the extrajudicial killing of civilians. More innocents have been buried and more families are grieving their loved ones, among them children, lost to a depraved colonizer that every day breaches the sanctity of human life.

Yesterday, 12 December, a young Palestinian girl became the latest victim of Israel's brutality. Jana Majdi Zakarneh, aged 16, was murdered by an Israeli sniper during yet another military raid on the city of Janin and its refugee camp. Jana, who had gone to the rooftop of her home to retrieve her cat, was shot with four bullets to the head, face and chest, murdered by another bloodthirsty Israeli soldier indoctrinated in a culture of hate and impunity. Jana was found dead, her body riddled with bullets, by her family who went up to look for her and who have been left shocked and bereft by their daughter's killing.

Jana's killing, execution-style, is reminiscent of the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by Israeli snipers and many others who preceded her. Moreover, as it did in the case of Shireen, and as it has become accustomed to doing, Israel immediately tried to deflect responsibility for this crime



and evade accountability. No one should accept these empty pretexts by an occupying Power whose forces have killed more than 52 Palestinian children this year alone across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, among the more than 215 Palestinians killed in 2022, including 17 women.

Among the children killed was a boy, Dia Mohammed Rimawi, aged 15, who was killed by Israeli occupying forces on 8 December when soldiers opened fire on a group of children near the town of Abud, northwest of Ramallah. Young Dia was killed and three others were wounded, one of whom remains in critical condition. Dia and the other children injured in this Israeli attack were from the nearby town of Beit Rima, deepening the mourning of the town, where families have been grieving the loss of two young brothers recently killed by Israeli soldiers.

Also among those murdered in the recent period were three Palestinian men, including two youths, who were killed by Israeli occupying forces during an assault on the Janin refugee camp on 8 December. The three men were Sudqi Zakarneh, aged 29; Tareq al-Damj, aged 29; and Ata Shalabi, aged 46, who witnesses say were shot at point blank range by Israeli soldiers that had descended on the city of Janin and the refugee camp in yet another large-scale invasion by Israeli occupying forces. At least 10 other Palestinians were wounded in the Israeli attack and medical staff were also targeted as Israeli occupying forces fired on an ambulance that tried to provide aid.

This appalling reality again attests the need for international protection for the Palestinian people, as a matter of urgency to save human lives and to deter further human rights abuses. We thus reiterate the standing calls of the Palestinian leadership for protection of the Palestinian people from the aggressions of Israel and its occupying forces, army and settlers. We call again upon the Security Council to act forthwith to implement its relevant resolutions, including resolution [904 \(1994\)](#), which clearly called for protection for the Palestinian people, as well as for Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to be disarmed.

Serious and immediate action must be taken to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes against the Palestinian people, including its incessant of violence and terror that have killed and injured so many innocents. As Israel continues to use its weaponry against civilians, unarmed and defenceless, including children, accountability must include action in both international and national courts, as well as a weapons embargo. Selling arms to Israel to facilitate its aggressions against the Palestinian people cannot be justified.

Moreover, we call upon the Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to add Israel to the list of countries perpetrating grave violations against children. The list is among the tools at the disposal of the international community to protect children, promote accountability and deter crimes against them, as obligated by international law, and there should not be hesitation to use it in this case. It is past time that Israel's occupation forces and settler militias be added to this list of notorious violators and, furthermore, that Israel be held fully accountable for all of its crimes against Palestinian children.

It is time to stop the exceptions and to make clear that Israel will be held to account for its blatant disregard for Palestinian lives and contempt for international law, that there will be a high cost for its human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Principled statements of condemnation of Israeli crimes and impunity will be rendered meaningless if they are not backed by tangible action in accordance with international law, including humanitarian, human rights and criminal law.

We thus reiterate our calls for the international community, including the Security Council, to act with urgency as the future and lives of millions of people are at stake. We appeal for all legitimate political and legal measures to be undertaken to confront Israel's illegal colonial occupation and system of apartheid against the Palestinian people, to pursue accountability and to finally bring an end to this grave injustice against the Palestinian people, who will never forsake their inalienable rights, including to return, to self-determination and freedom, fundamental for the realization of a genuine and just peace and lasting security.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 771 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 2 December 2022 ([A/ES-10/919-S/2022/905](#)) 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