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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Security Council
Seventy-eighth year

Identical letters dated 17 January 2023 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 write to once again reiterate our standing call for international protection for the Palestinian people, who continue to be deprived of life, liberty and dignity by Israel's colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

Israeli occupying forces, including extremist settler militias, are escalating their assaults and terror against Palestinian civilians, no doubt emboldened by the far-right agenda of the Israeli government that does not conceal its hatred and racism against the Palestinian people and its total disdain and disrespect for international law.

In the span of two weeks, 15 Palestinians, among them 4 children, have been killed in violent raids by Israeli occupying forces on Palestinian villages, towns and refugee camps in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in addition to dozens of injured and hundreds arrested and detained since the start of the year. The new Israeli government is signalling not only that it will continue with the inhumane policies pursued by its predecessors against the Palestinian people, but that it intends to intensify such policies, with zero regard for international law and human rights.

Today, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Hamdi Shaker Abu Dayyeh, age 40, near a military checkpoint by the town of Halhul – one of hundreds of checkpoints imposed by the occupation to control and terrorize the Palestinian population – and then prevented ambulances from coming to his aid, a typical practice by Israel in flagrant violation of its obligations under international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention.

On 16 January, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian child, Omar Lutfi Khmour, age 14, in the Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem in yet another assault on the camp. The young boy was shot in the head, like so many Palestinian children before him, and is the third civilian killed by Israeli occupying forces in Dheisheh since December.



On 15 January, a Palestinian man, Ahmad Kahla, age 45, was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers near the village of Silwad. Kahla was shot execution-style at yet another Israeli military checkpoint.

On 14 January, a 19-year-old Palestinian youth, Yazan Samer Jabari, died of wounds sustained two weeks earlier in an Israeli assault on the town of Kafr Dan near Janin, where the occupying forces were carrying out a military raid to demolish Palestinian homes as a means of collective punishment.

On 12 January, an Israeli soldier shot Samir Aouni Harbi Aslan, age 41, directly in the chest and killed him in cold blood at his home in front of his family. Israeli occupying forces raiding the Qalandiya refugee camp that morning had invaded his home and seized his 17-year-old son Ramzi, who called out to his father to help him. When Samir was forced back inside the home by soldiers, he ran to the rooftop to see where the soldiers were taking his son and was shot and executed by an Israeli sniper standing on top of an adjacent building. Israeli occupying forces then prevented the family from taking Samir to the hospital for emergency medical care, leaving him bleeding on the ground to die.

Samir was unarmed, trying only to help his son, the duty of every parent anywhere; he was trying to protect him as he, like all Palestinians, continued to be denied not only protection but the right to defend themselves from this criminal, belligerent occupation and to resist its violation of their rights and very existence. Samir, who worked in a poultry shop in the camp to support his family, leaves behind eight children, the youngest only 2 years old, who have been left without a father and without a livelihood, another family destroyed by an occupying Power that has indoctrinated its soldiers to torment and dehumanize the Palestinian people without any remorse.

Also on 12 January, an 18-year-old boy, Abdulhadi Fakhri Nazzal, from the town of Qabatiyah near the city of Janin, died of wounds to the chest and neck after being shot by Israeli occupying forces. Another casualty of that military raid on Qabatiyah was Habib Mohammad Ikmail, age 25, who was also shot in the head and killed by Israeli soldiers.

The lives of these young men and boys are being mourned by their families, their communities and their nation along with all other Palestinian lives so cruelly ended by this merciless, illegal occupation. It is not an understatement to say that the sense of threat to the lives of Palestinians and to their existence in their homeland is reaching an all-time high as officials of the new Israeli government intensify their hostile, racist rhetoric and incitement against the Palestinian people and push ahead with their destructive and illegal policies regardless of the dire consequences, seemingly convinced that they will never be held accountable.

Combined with the punitive measures declared by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people, leadership and civil society in retaliation for legitimate, peaceful efforts to seek accountability, including the request by the General Assembly for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice, such violence and terror by Israel's army and settler militias are exacerbating tensions and stoking widespread fear among our people of what is to come.

We call on the international community to give urgent attention to this extremely alarming and dangerous situation. Action is required to not only condemn such illegal practices, but to demand and usher their end by imposing consequences in line with international law, including a military embargo on Israel, the occupying Power, which uses its weaponry directly to harm and violate the human rights of the civilian population captive under its occupation.

This requires urgent efforts, collectively and individually by States and organizations, to ensure accountability for all crimes perpetrated and provide protection for the Palestinian people for as long as this illegal situation persists, threatening human lives, threatening the viability of the international law rules-based order, and threatening regional and international peace and security.

An unequivocal message must be sent to the Israeli government that its illegal colonial occupation of the Palestinian territory and abhorrent apartheid practices against the Palestinian people are fully rejected and that there will be consequences for its violence and terror and all other breaches of international law it is perpetrating against them.

Specifically, we once again urge the Security Council to act, to come off the sidelines and bring its authority to bear to stop the further deterioration of this dangerous situation. The Council must act to implement its resolutions and to make its necessary contribution towards bringing an end to this historic injustice and realizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and a just solution to the Palestine question that remains an open wound for our region and the world that must be urgently healed for peace and security to be achieved.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 774 letters regarding the ongoing historic injustice against the Palestinian people and the crimes being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, 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 3 January 2023 ([A/ES-10/921-S/2023/12](#)), 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 must be held accountable and the perpetrators 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