



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
27 January 2023

Original: English

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-eighth year

Identical letters dated 26 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

In the absence of international protection, the Palestinian people continue to suffer lethal assaults and atrocities at the hands of Israel, the occupying Power, which is not only in grave breach of international humanitarian law, but has completely abdicated its legal obligations and responsibilities with blatant contempt for the law and the international community, including the Security Council.

Today, 26 January, Israeli occupying forces carried out yet another large-scale military invasion of the Jenin refugee camp, which has endured repeated aggressions and massacres. Israeli soldiers, acting with the impunity they have become accustomed to, violently raided homes and fired live ammunition with absolutely no regard for human life.

Nine Palestinians, including a woman and several youths, were murdered by the Israeli occupying forces and more than 20 people were wounded and their medical care was repeatedly obstructed and delayed by the Israeli occupying forces, including by shooting at ambulances and medical personnel. Four of the wounded are said to be hospitalized and in critical condition. Those who were killed in this criminal attack have been identified as:

Abdullah Marwan Juma Musa, 18 years of age
Wesam Amjad Abu Joish, 19 years of age
Izzidine Yassin Salahat, 22 years of age
Nour Sami Mohammed Ghneim, 23 years of age
Saeb Asim Mahmoud Azriqi, 26 years of age
Majida Abdelfattah Mahmoud Obeid, 61 years of age
Mohammed Sami Mohammed Ghneim, 34 years of age
Mohammed Mahmoud Mohammed Sbeih, 35 years of age
Moatassim Mahmoud Ahmed Abu al-Hassan, 37 years of age



Their families and the Jenin refugee camp have been left grief-stricken and the Palestinian people have again been traumatized by this belligerent colonial occupier that remains unrelenting in its aggressions, using all means of lethal force and unlawful measures to oppress and subjugate them, in grave breach of the law and gross abuse of their human rights. Recklessly inflaming this already volatile situation, Israeli officials are threatening even more attacks against the Palestinian people, further revealing the intentions of this far-right, extremist government.

There is no justification for such force and threat of force against a civilian population under occupation. Even Israeli claims of so-called “preventive attacks” or “foiling” alleged attacks in “search-and-arrest operations” in Palestinian areas do not justify such barbarism against the occupied people. Palestinian men, women and children are being killed in their homes, at Israeli checkpoints, in their cities, towns, villages and camps by a colonial occupier that dehumanizes them and is provoked by their very presence in their own land. The occupier deems itself not just the superior master to these people, but the judge and executioner, and one that does not conceal its hatred and racism against them and its total contempt for international law and human rights.

The fact is that Israel, its military forces and settlers have no right whatsoever to be in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. There is no valid justification for such an invasion of Jenin or Nablus or any other Palestinian area, and the international community cannot continue to accept such pretexts for Israel’s continued terrorism against Palestinian people and its blatant war crimes and crimes against humanity. International humanitarian law and human rights law must be upheld not just in word, but equally in deed. Moreover, it is past time to begin questioning Israel’s criteria for who is a so-called “militant” or “terrorist”, as the fact is that Israel targets Palestinians for who they are – Palestinians – and for any rejection of this illegal colonial occupation, including non-violent protest.

In that regard, I must draw attention to the shameless, false claims made by the Israeli representative in the Security Council on 18 January, including repeated references to “Palestinian terrorists”, including in regard to the killing of a Palestinian man, Ahmad Kahla, 45 years of age, who was shot to death execution-style in front of his teenage son by Israeli soldiers. The evidence, including as reported by the Israeli media, completely contradicts Israel’s false claims, as has happened in so many other cases.

The world must stop accepting Israel’s distorted narrative and such propaganda without question. Israel is not the sovereign in the Palestinian land, the Palestinian people are not “terrorists” and these are not merely “search-and-arrest operations” falling under traditional “law and order” measures. This is about an occupying Power using violent force and all other illegal means to impose and entrench its control over the Palestinian people and land and to create fear among the population to force submission to and acceptance of its illegal presence.

Israel is flagrantly exploiting “counter-terrorism” arguments for its aggressions against the Palestinian people and its false pretexts and narratives must be exposed, condemned and rejected. This occupation is unlawful in every manifestation, has no right to enter Palestinian homes, cities, towns, villages and camps to violently assert its unlawful domination over our people and must be brought to an end.

The Palestinian leadership therefore reiterates its urgent calls for international protection for the Palestinian people. For as long as this illegal colonial occupation persists and the Palestinian people continue to be denied their inalienable rights, including to self-determination, and in light of escalating threats and aggressions by Israel, the occupying Power, the international community must act to ensure protection in line with international humanitarian law and the relevant United Nations

resolutions, including, inter alia, Security Council resolutions [471 \(1980\)](#), [605 \(1987\)](#), [681 \(1990\)](#), [904 \(1994\)](#) and [1073 \(1996\)](#) and the 2018 report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in that regard.

Moreover, we reiterate the urgency of accountability towards deterring and bringing a halt to these crimes against the Palestinian people. For as long as Israeli government officials, military personnel and settlers believe they will not be held accountable for their violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people and their grave breaches of international law, they will only be emboldened to carry on with their atrocities and persecution of our people.

We reiterate our calls for urgent attention, including by the Security Council, to this extremely dangerous situation. We call for firm condemnations of all such illegal Israeli policies and practices as well as concrete measures of accountability. Israel must be put on notice that its crimes against the Palestinian people will not be tolerated and that its insistence on this destructive, unlawful path will bring serious consequences. Israel must make the choice whether to abide by international law or to bear the costs of its rejection. An outlaw State cannot continue to be treated as a State above the law; it must be held to the same standards of the law as every country. Only accountability can unequivocally convey that message.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 775 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 17 January 2023 ([A/ES-10/923-S/2023/47](#)) 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