



# General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General  
22 February 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 22 February 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**

The Palestinian people are again today grieving, grieving the loss of a child, of youth, of elders, grieving the continued devastation of families, and grieving from the oppression and trauma that continues to be inflicted by a colonial occupier and apartheid regime that is unrelenting in its dehumanization, aggression and terror against our people.

Today, the civilian population in Nablus was once again targeted by this campaign of terror as Israeli occupying forces descended on the city in a widescale violent military raid that resulted in the massacre of another 10 Palestinians, including a child, and the injury of at least 102 civilians. Of those wounded in this Israeli attack, six are now hospitalized in a critical condition struggling for their lives. The Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces today were:

Mohammed Farid Shaaban, age 16  
Adnan Sabe' Baara, age 72  
Abdelhady Abdelaziz Ashkar, age 61  
Mohammed Khaled Anabousi, age 25  
Tamer Nimer Ahmed Minawi, age 33  
Musab Munir Mohammed Aweis, age 26  
Hussam Bassam Isleem, age 24  
Mohammed Abdelfattah Abdelghani, age 23  
Walid Riyad Hussein Dakhil, age 23  
Jamil Abdelwahab Qaneer, age 23

Moreover, Israeli occupying forces deliberately, as has been the occupation's long-standing illegal practice, prevented medical personnel and ambulances from reaching the victims of the Israeli attack, undermining the efforts to treat the wounded and save lives, in grave breach of international humanitarian law.

The turmoil and destruction caused by this Israeli assault has amplified anger and fears not only in Nablus, but throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory,



including East Jerusalem. It serves as yet another indication of the occupying Power's ruthless intentions towards the Palestinian people and its absolute disregard for their lives and most fundamental human rights, which it persists in grossly violating with total impunity as it continues to evade accountability.

We must therefore once again alert the international community, particularly the Security Council, to the dangerously rising tensions on the ground as Israel, the occupying Power, insists on provoking an escalation and explosion that risks spiralling out of control. We must also once again make our standing call for protection for the Palestinian people, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and as called for in numerous United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [904 \(1994\)](#), in the 2018 report to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and just two days ago in the presidential statement adopted by the Security Council on 20 February 2023.

In this regard, we underscore that in its most recent presidential statement, the Security Council emphasized, *inter alia*, "the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians", called for "full respect for international humanitarian law, including the protection of the civilian population", also called for "facilitating access of humanitarian workers to populations in need" and reiterated "the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and their protection".

The Palestinian people live in fear for the safety and lives of their families, of their children and of their future as this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime continues its campaign of aggressions and ethnic cleansing.

The Palestinian people need and deserve, and are entitled to, international protection in accordance with international law. International humanitarian law is intended for the protection of civilian persons in time of war and must not just be referenced or admired, but concretely upheld, respected and implemented to protect human lives from the scourge of war, including foreign occupation.

Yet, in the absence of protection, 61 Palestinians have been killed, including 13 children, since the start of 2023, following the pattern of killing and destruction perpetrated by Israel in 2022 and the years preceding.

Those killed include a Palestinian boy, Muntaser al-Shawwa, age 16, who died yesterday of wounds sustained two weeks ago in a military raid by Israeli occupying forces on the Balata refugee camp north of Nablus. Young Muntaser was standing on the roadside during the raid when he was shot by an Israeli sniper whose bullet struck him in the head, yet another reflection of Israel's long-standing shoot-to-kill policy against Palestinian civilians.

The victims also include Harun Abu Aram, age 26, who died after suffering being paralysed for two years after being shot point blank in the neck by an Israeli soldier. What was Harun's crime? Trying to stop the Israeli occupying forces that had raided the Masafer Yatta area from seizing an electric generator in an ongoing attempt to deprive the Palestinian civilian population there even of the basics of a safe, secure, dignified life in their own homeland. Harun died in a cave, where his family was forced to live after Israel demolished the family's home in 2020, not even allowing the family to retrieve their meagre belongings. Israel has continued to prevent them from building a home on their privately owned land as it continues its blatant campaign of forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, we are compelled to recall the Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict ([A/76/871-S/2022/493](#)) and his affirmation that, should the 2022 pattern of Israel's violation of child rights continue, Israel should be listed. We call for that listing as Israel proves itself over and over as a serial violator of the

rights of Palestinian children, killing, injuring, maiming, arresting, detaining, forcibly displacing, traumatizing and terrorizing them without a single consequence for its crimes.

It is time to ensure international protection for Palestinian children and the Palestinian people as a whole. It is time to end the massacres, end the ethnic cleansing, end the colonization and annexation, and end this illegal, abhorrent occupation and apartheid regime. It is time for accountability, as required by international law. Israel, the occupying Power, cannot remain the exception, absolved of its obligation to abide by international law.

We therefore call once again on the international community, in particular the Security Council, to act, in line with the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and all other relevant provisions of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and all relevant United Nations resolutions. It is time for the implementation of those relevant resolutions and to give meaning to international law to protect civilian lives and to uphold the long-standing responsibilities of the international community towards the Palestine question and the attainment of justice.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 779 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 13 February 2023 ([A/ES-10/927-S/2023/103](#)) 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