



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
28 March 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 27 March 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 regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its provocations, threats, repression, assaults on the Palestinian people and all manifestations of its settlement campaign in a frenzied and blatant attempt to fulfil its criminal colonization and annexation agenda in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

With total contempt, Israel continues to ignore the global calls made to cease its illegal policies and practices, including the calls made on 22 March by Security Council members, who unanimously called for a halt to Israel's attacks on Palestinian civilians and complete cessation of its illegal settlement activities and demanded respect for international law and United Nations resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and compliance with agreements reached.

Such impunity must not remain unanswered; it must be reined in with immediate and tangible measures of accountability by the international community, including the Security Council, in accordance with international law.

Among the most striking of countless violations perpetrated in recent weeks has been the decision to carry on with illegal settlement activities. This includes Knesset legislation adopted on 20 March enabling Israeli settlers to once again colonize areas in the north of the occupied West Bank where illegal settlement outposts had been evacuated in 2005. It is yet another attempt by Israel to advance its colonial agenda by facilitating the seizure and settlement of Palestinian lands in flagrant breach of international law and in total contradiction to the two-State solution on the pre-1967 lines. Moreover, such actions expose the lies of the Israeli government regarding any halt to settlement activities.

Also last week, on 22 March, the so-called "Israel Land Authority" issued tenders for the construction of more than 1,000 settlement units in illegal settlements in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem. As reported by the Israeli organization



Peace Now, these units are part of the “Targeted housing” programme aimed at encouraging Israeli Jewish citizens to purchase their first home, and thus deliberately aiming to transfer more Israelis to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and in violation of United Nations resolutions.

Such illegal actions are stoking tensions in an already volatile situation of constant and escalating violence and incitement by Israeli officials, occupying forces and terrorist settler gangs and militias against the Palestinian people. This has included repeated, dangerous provocations and assaults by Israeli settlers at Muslim and Christian holy sites, including at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and the Church of Gethsemane, also known as the Church of All Nations, in occupied East Jerusalem.

Extremist Jewish settlers have continued to raid Al-Aqsa Mosque, including on 23 March, the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when hundreds of settlers descended, accompanied by Israeli occupying forces, stormed the compound and performed rituals in blatant violation of the historic and legal status of the holy site as a place solely for Muslim worship and in a clear attempt to provoke the feelings of Muslim worshippers and foment confrontations.

Also, on 19 March, Israeli settlers attempted another attack on the Church of Gethsemane breaking into the church during Sunday services and trying to destroy objects inside before being stopped. Following this most recent attack, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem warned yet again that “terrorist attacks, by radical Israeli groups, targeting churches, cemeteries and Christian properties, in addition to physical and verbal abuse against Christian clergy, have become almost a daily occurrence that evidently increases in intensity during Christian holidays”.

We must therefore again alert the international community about the risks of such provocations and incitement by Israeli extremists and terrorists, threatening not only to instigate more violence and instability, but the explosion of a dangerous religious conflict with unbridled consequences. The warning signs are clear; the international community cannot stand idly by and let that happen.

In this regard, we must also again warn of the dangerous incitement by extremist and far-right Israeli officials. Most recently, Israeli Minister Bezalel Smotrich, on the heels of his repugnant call for wiping out the Palestinian village of Huwwara, declared in a recent speech in France, as he stood behind a map of “Greater Israel” encompassing not only Palestine, but also Jordan and other countries in the region, that “there is no such thing as Palestinians because there’s no such thing as the Palestinian people”. Such racist, reckless denial of the existence of our people is clearly meant not only to justify denial of their human rights but to justify attempts at the extermination of their existence, effectively threatening another Nakba against the Palestinian people, and must be unequivocally condemned.

In the absence of protection and against a backdrop of such constant incitement by Israeli officials, the number of Palestinian casualties has also risen as Israeli occupying forces and settlers persist with their violent raids and attacks in Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps. Israeli soldiers, indoctrinated on a shoot-to-kill policy, and Jewish settlers, accustomed to getting away with their crimes, continue to kill and injure Palestinians using all forms of lethal weaponry, including prohibited expanding bullets, and terrorizing our defenceless civilian population. Since the year began, 90 Palestinians have already been killed, among them 17 children.

As stressed in a recent statement by Defense for Children International – Palestine, “Unlawful killings of Palestinian children have become the norm as Israeli

forces become increasingly empowered to use intentional lethal force in situations that are not justified. In short, these are war crimes with no consequence.”

Among the recent casualties was a 15-year-old Palestinian boy, Walid Saad Daoud Nassar, who died on 9 March after being shot by Israeli occupying forces two days earlier with an expanding bullet that shredded his organs. Also on 9 March, three young Palestinian men – Sufyan Fakhoury, age 26, Nayef Malayshah, age 25, and Ahmad Fashafsha, age 22 – were the victims of an extrajudicial execution when Israeli occupying forces fired at their vehicle at the entrance to the town of Jaba’, near Jenin.

On 10 March, a 16-year-old Palestinian boy, Amir Mamoun Odeh, was shot in the chest and killed by Israeli occupying forces in Qalqilya. Also, on 10 March, an Israeli settler shot and killed a young Palestinian man, Abdelkarim Badie Sheikh, age 21, and after the killing, rather than holding the settler accountable, Israeli soldiers raided the town of Sanniriya and ransacked several homes, including the family home of the slain Abdelkarim. On 12 March, another three young Palestinians – Jihad Mohammad Shami, age 24, Udai Othman Shami, age 22, and Mohammad Ra’ed Dabek, age 18 – were targeted and killed by Israeli occupying forces in a clear act of assassination near a military checkpoint south of Nablus.

On 16 March, Israeli occupying forces murdered another child, Omar Awadin, age 16, and killed three more Palestinians – Nidal Khazem, age 28, Saleh Shreim, age 29, and Loay Zaghayer, age 37 – in a violent raid in broad daylight in Jenin city centre that also caused injury to 23 other people, 4 of them seriously wounded. Footage of the attack shows undercover Israeli soldiers shooting directly at the head of Khazem, who was critically injured and lying on the ground, in order to ensure his death, constituting yet another extrajudicial execution. On 17 March, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a young man, Yazan Omar Khasib, age 23, at a military checkpoint at the entrance to Ramallah and again denied access to Palestinian medical personnel, leaving him to die of his wounds.

All of these crimes are being perpetrated continuously, systematically and flagrantly, and yet the Palestinian people continue to be denied protection and to be deprived of any form of accountability as Israel continues to evade responsibility for its crimes and atrocities. We must therefore reiterate our standing calls for international protection for the Palestinian people and for effective and meaningful measures to be taken, including by the Security Council, in line with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, to bring an end to Israel’s illegal settler-colonial occupation and apartheid regime and to ensure justice for the Palestinian people.

It is time for Israel to be treated like all other States, not as the exception to the rule of law. It is time for the international community to stop enabling Israel in the perpetration of its crimes against the Palestinian people and stop any form of complicity, whether political, legal, economic, military or otherwise. Israel must be demanded to comply with its international legal obligations or face the consequences of its impunity.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 782 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 8 March 2023 ([A/ES-10/930-S/2023/183](#)) 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.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Riyadh **Mansour**
Minister
Permanent Observer
