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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 7 April 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

While the Security Council remains silent and the world looks on, Israel remains undeterred, carrying on with its daily barbarity and criminality against the Palestinian people, escalating its violence, punishment and threats against them under every possible illegal and racist pretext.

Since my last letter, on 5 April, Israeli occupying forces have perpetrated numerous more raids on the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif, assaults on Palestinian worshippers and a series of military air strikes on the Gaza Strip, terrorizing our people and threatening even more loss of life and destruction. Yet again, the holy month of Ramadan and Easter celebrations are being marred for Palestinian worshippers and the Muslim and Christian faithful around the world by the deliberate decisions of Israel, the occupying Power, to violate the sanctity of holy sites and to use force against civilians who are simply exercising their rights to religion and worship.

The international community's warnings and calls for de-escalation and calm are being blatantly ignored by Israel, the occupying Power. It has no interest in de-escalation and no regard for the international community, much less for international law and the rights of the Palestinian people. Its only interest is in seizing every opportunity to exert its dominance over the Palestinian people and its control over their land and holy sites through increasingly violent and vulgar shows of force and the tightening of its arbitrary, unlawful restrictions on Palestinians' access to Jerusalem, the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and churches in the city, along with the closure of other Palestinian cities and areas, including Nablus, Jericho and the Jordan Valley.

Rather than peaceful celebrations at the convergence of Ramadan, Easter and Passover, we are witness again to Palestinian men, women and children being beaten, chased, humiliated and viciously attacked; terror bombings of Gaza spreading fear



and panic; and the very presence of our people in their homeland under violent assault.

At this moment, warmongering Israeli politicians and military commanders are not seeking to de-escalate. On the contrary, they are threatening more violence and punishment, mobilizing army forces and inciting their settler militias, preparing for more aggressions against a defenceless people. Hostile declarations against Palestinians by Israeli officials, including extremists in the government, leave no doubt as to the predominant Israeli choice – never one for peace, always one for war, trampling international law and human rights in pursuit of a military solution that aims at nothing less than the submission and surrender of our people to this illegal settler-colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

This dangerous situation threatening the lives of our people and regional and international peace and stability compels us to make yet another appeal to the international community. We call on the Security Council and all States to act with responsibility and urgency to protect the Palestinian people in the face of this aggression and to uphold international law as the only path to justice and peace.

By now it is clearer than ever: Israel will never stop its crimes of its own accord; it must be pressured to stop, and this requires, first and foremost, accountability. As long as accountability remains absent, Israel is proving time and again that it will continue wantonly and wilfully to breach international law, colonize and annex Palestinian land and violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in broad daylight, daring the international community to react, yet confident it will never be held accountable. This shameful record of action and inaction cannot continue. It is time to impose concrete and costly consequences on Israel, the occupying Power, for all of its illegal actions, including many that constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We reiterate our calls on the international community to take a firm stand to oppose this ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Israel must be demanded to halt its attacks on Palestinian civilians, to halt its military raids and air strikes and to respect all of its obligations, without exception, as the occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Moreover, Israel must be demanded to cease its incitement and provocations against worshippers and holy sites, reckless actions that are threatening to ignite a religious war, with disastrous ramifications. Israel must respect, in word and deed, the historic and legal status quo at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and respect the authority of the Islamic Waqf and custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for Jerusalem's holy sites, without interference or conditionality.

Once again, it must be stated: Israel is the occupying Power and has no right whatsoever to restrict the access of our worshippers or to assert its sovereignty or control at this holy site or anywhere else in East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where its presence and that of its military forces and settlers is absolutely illegal.

The Charter of the United Nations, other relevant tenets of international law and countless relevant United Nations resolutions are unambiguous as to the need for action in the face of such egregious and systematic breaches. We thus reiterate our calls on the Security Council and all peace-loving nations to act, and on the Secretary-General to use his good offices to oppose this aggression, to demand its halt, to provide protection for the Palestinian people and to ensure for them a horizon for justice and the realization of the inalienable human rights they continue to be deprived of by this illegal Israeli settler-colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 784 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. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 ([A/55/432-S/2000/921](#)) to 5 April 2023 ([A/ES-10/932-S/2023/249](#)) 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) Riyadh **Mansour**
Minister
Permanent Observer
