



# General Assembly Security Council

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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 8 May 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 any measures of accountability or protection, Israel, the occupying Power, remains emboldened to carry on with its systematic human rights violations and grave breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Such impunity has regrettably led to more civilian deaths, more destruction and more colonization in just the few days since my last letter to you.

On 4 May, three more young Palestinians were killed by Israeli occupying forces in a military raid in the old city of Nablus. The three youths – Moadth Masri, Ibrahim Jabr and Hassan Qatanani – were targeted and executed by the Israeli occupying forces. The faces of two of the victims were completely disfigured owing to the seriousness of their injuries caused by the manner in which they were executed.

Also on 4 May, a Palestinian woman, Eman Ziyad Odeh, age 26, was killed by Israeli occupying forces in the town of Huwwara, which continues to be terrorized by Israeli soldiers and settlers following the recent arson attacks on dozens of homes and vehicles and violent assaults on Palestinian civilians. Eman died after being shot directly in the chest by Israeli gunfire. Her killing was followed, on 6 May, by Israeli occupying forces perpetrating yet another extrajudicial execution, killing another two young Palestinian men – Hamza Khrewish, age 22, and Samer al-Shafei, age 22. Both youths were targeted by the Israeli occupying forces in a military raid on the town of Tulkarem.

These killings bring the total number of persons killed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers since the start of 2023 to 110 Palestinians, including 20 children and 2 women. The number of injuries to Palestinian children, women and men also continues to rise daily as a result of Israeli military raids and settler attacks throughout the occupied West Bank, including in the recent period in Ramallah, Nablus, Jericho, Beit Rima, Nabi Saleh and in other towns and villages where violence by Israeli



settlers terrorizing Palestinian civilians and vandalizing and destroying properties is escalating.

In this regard, it must be noted that extremist Israeli settlers, including youth gangs and militias, such as the so-called “Hilltop Youth”, known for their intimidation, violence and terror against Palestinians, are now being formally incorporated into the occupying army, further emboldening their ruthless and lawless behaviour against our besieged people and endangering their lives and livelihoods and very presence on their land.

We thus reiterate our calls for accountability for all of these crimes being perpetrated against the Palestinian people and our calls for protection for our people, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, and the relevant United Nations resolutions, for as long as this illegal Israeli settler-colonial occupation of the Palestinian land and oppression of the Palestinian people persists.

In this regard, we must also yet again draw attention to Israel’s illegal settlement activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which continue unabated. On 7 May, the Israeli government brazenly published tenders for at least 1,248 new units in illegal settlements, in grave breach of international law and in violation of United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), in which the Council unequivocally condemned and called for the complete cessation of all settlement activities and the reversal of negative trends on the ground, and with total disrespect for the July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, in which the Court affirmed the illegality of such policies and measures and the imperative to halt them.

Obviously, Israel does not hesitate to flout international law and the international community’s unanimous calls for the cessation of these illegal actions, its impunity clearly encouraged by the lack of accountability. Moreover, its flagrant and systematic violations underscore its perennial bad faith in negotiations and lack of respect for any agreements or commitments reached, which are typically reneged on immediately and grossly violated, as witnessed in the recent period following the meetings convened in Aqaba and Sharm el-Sheikh.

Of course, in addition to and directly correlated with its expansion of settlements, Israel persists with its demolition of Palestinian homes and properties and infrastructure, as part of its prolonged, systematic campaign of destruction, dispossession and displacement against the Palestinian people, as it has been doing for over 75 years.

In this recent period, Israel has demolished more Palestinian homes, schools and livelihood structures, including commercial and agricultural structures. On 7 May, Israeli occupying forces demolished a European Union-funded school in Jubbet adh Dhib village, east of Bethlehem, violating the right to education of the 40 children attending the school and traumatizing those children who have now lost the school where they had been learning, playing and engaging with their teachers and classmates in what was supposed to be a safe and protected place.

It must be noted that Israel had previously demolished this same school in 2017, after which it was later rebuilt, just as the community and those in solidarity are now rebuilding the school, insisting on the right of Palestinian children to education and rejecting these crimes of the occupier, which has absolutely no sovereignty rights in our land. Currently, at least 58 schools serving 6,500 Palestinian children are threatened with demolition by the Israeli occupying forces for lack of building permits that are virtually impossible for Palestinians to obtain from the occupying Power, underscoring the unlawful nature and behaviour of this occupation that systematically

violates its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention.

We call for urgent attention to this ongoing protection crisis being endured by Palestinian children and our people as a whole under this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime. Continued failure to hold Israel accountable only fuels the permissive environment that has enabled these crimes that are escalating by the day, causing more suffering and hardship, allowing for entrenchment of the occupation, including via flagrant acts of annexation, and compounding this grave injustice.

It is past time to enact accountability measures regarding Israel, the occupying Power, in line with international law. Israel's blatant rejection of the rule of law and trampling of the internationally endorsed parameters for a just solution, as enshrined in United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative, cannot continue to be met with silence by the international community, including the Security Council. Such illegal actions are violating the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including to self-determination, violating the Charter prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force, and destroying the two-State solution, making it incumbent upon all States and organizations to act, with the United Nations at the forefront based on its permanent responsibility for the question of Palestine until it is justly resolved in all aspects, a responsibility that remains ever more urgent 75 years since the Nakba.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 787 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 2 May 2023 ([A/ES-10/935-S/2023/310](#)), 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