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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 12 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

I regret to inform you that, since Israel, the occupying Power, began its latest military aggression on the Gaza Strip on 9 May, at least 33 Palestinians have been killed, including women and children. Among the casualties, over 106 Palestinians have been injured, among them 32 children and 17 women, some critically wounded and struggling for their lives. As Israeli warplanes continue to deliberately bomb civilian areas, there has also been widespread destruction of homes and other civilian infrastructure and further displacement of Palestinian families and loss of homes and livelihoods.

Israel's decision to break the ceasefire in order to carry out an assassination campaign targeting leaders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement is what has provoked yet another deadly cycle of violence, with the Prime Minister himself bragging, on 11 May, "This morning, we targeted the commander of the Islamic Jihad rocket unit in Gaza. A short time ago we targeted his deputy". Such extrajudicial executions cannot be excused or justified, for they constitute flagrant violations of international law and must be condemned in the strongest terms.

In perpetrating these brazen terror attacks, Israel has exhibited absolutely no regard for human life, dismissing the lives of the other children, women and men killed in its air strikes and drone attacks as "collateral damage". Once again, Israel is committing grave breaches of international law, namely, war crimes, with sheer impunity, confident that there will be no consequences and emboldened to commit only more crimes.

Among the seven children murdered in their homes by Israel in this aggression were a 4-year-old girl, Hajar Khalil Salah Al-Bahtini; a 17-year-old girl, Iman Alaa Atta Adas; a brother and sister, 8-year-old Ali Tariq Ibrahim Ezzedine and 10-year-old Mayar Tariq Ibrahim Ezzedine; and a 10-year-old girl, Layan Madoukh.



We reiterate: those who are planning and implementing the orders to commit these extrajudicial executions and wilfully and wantonly target civilians and civilian objects – whether government or military personnel of the occupying Power – must be held accountable to the full extent of the law.

In addition to tragic loss of life, this premediated Israeli attack is compounding the dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian civilian population besieged by Israel's 16-year air, land and sea blockade of Gaza, in grave breach of international humanitarian law and human rights law. It has paralyzed all aspects of life, with schools, universities and most businesses shuttered as fear has gripped the population that, once again, is left without protection and without anywhere to seek safety from the Israeli bombardments. Since 9 May, the occupying Power has also sealed border crossings for the movement of people and goods, even denying patients, now over 140 people and most of them with cancer, the right to leave Gaza for life-saving treatment, constituting yet another grave breach of its obligations under international humanitarian law.

Also, yet again, families in Gaza are suffering dispossession and displacement from their homes owing to Israel's devastating assaults. It has been reported that 47 homes have sustained significant damage, including at least 19 homes that have been completely destroyed and 28 homes that have been severely damaged, which are now uninhabitable. Another 286 homes have sustained damage, particularly as a result of Israeli air strikes on multi-family apartment buildings. As of now, over 165 people have been internally displaced since this Israeli military aggression began on 9 May.

The international community cannot sit by as an occupying Power violently assaults an occupied, besieged and defenceless people and threatens an even more dangerous destabilization of the situation on the ground with far-reaching implications. The Security Council, in particular, has an obligation to act as this threat to international peace and security escalates before our eyes and as innocent civilians are killed and wounded and homes and vital infrastructure are savagely destroyed, breaching international law and the Council's own resolutions.

Since the start of 2023, 148 Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces and Israeli settlers. Among the civilians killed were 26 children, exposing a systematic pattern of violations by Israel of the rights of Palestinian children, particularly their right to life, for which Israel must be held fully responsible, including through the listing of Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settler groups on the children and armed conflict list of violators of child rights.

As Israel is clearly intent on carrying on with such brutality and impunity – a fact affirmed daily by the inflammatory rhetoric and incitement and threats made by Israeli officials – it is a matter of urgency that the international community act to protect the Palestinian civilian population and to deter the perpetration of more crimes by Israel, the occupying Power. Both objectives require concrete measures of accountability, and we urge all States to pursue them, collectively and individually, in line with their obligations under international law, including as High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure respect in all circumstances.

We thus call again for serious and rapid action to protect the Palestinian people and ensure their human security, to bring an end to the bloodshed with an immediate ceasefire and to bring an end to this illegal colonial Israeli occupation and apartheid regime that has been the cause of so much human suffering for decades and has precluded the realization of a just and lasting peace and security in the region.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 789 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 12 May 2023 (A/ES-10/936-S/2023/327), 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

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