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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 15 June 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

Although the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council and the International Court of Justice have – unequivocally and repeatedly – demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Israel carries on with its colonial settlement campaign, systematically breaching its legal obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Fourth Geneva Convention and all relevant United Nations resolutions, with total impunity.

Moreover, although all States and international organizations have been called upon, *inter alia*, to: “actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlement activities”; and “not to recognize, and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining, the situation created by measures that are illegal under international law, including those aimed at advancing annexation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967”; and although the General Assembly has continually called for “measures of accountability, consistent with international law, in the light of continued non-compliance with the demands for a complete and immediate cessation of all settlement activities”; and the Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) has specifically called upon all States: “to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967”; Israel continues to evade consequences, becoming only more emboldened to break the law, as the international community continues to fail its responsibilities to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes.

It is in the context of this deplorable reality that the Israeli government continues to brazenly advance its colonial settlement agenda, with plans recently revealed for the construction of 4,000 more settlement units, and to aggressively promote the



transfer of Israeli settlers to Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem – with some officials publicly calling for the transfer of a half million more settlers, in addition to the 750,000 already illegally transferred; to escalate its seizure and demolition of Palestinian homes and properties and its forced displacement of Palestinian civilian; and to permit and support the violence and terror of its settler militias and gangs, all aimed at the same illegal and destructive objectives of colonization, annexation and ethnic cleansing.

For this purpose, Israel also persists with plans to colonize the so-called “E-1” area in the heart of the occupied West Bank, attempting to create a continuum of settlements between the settlement of “Ma’ale Adumim” and Jerusalem and physically impede Palestinian territorial continuity by severing the southern and northern parts of the West Bank. The aim of these illegal measures is clear: annexation of those settlements.

According to the Israeli organization Peace Now: “The advancement of construction in E1 is another step in the current Israeli government’s actions, which since its establishment, has been establishing new settlements, returning settlers to the northern West Bank, and now working to create conditions for the annexation of the West Bank ... This pro-settler and annexationist government seems to continue to act according to a systematic plan that leads us to a reality of apartheid, undermining the chances of a political solution between Israelis and Palestinians”.

In the absence of that just solution, and in the absence of any form of accountability, Israel, the occupying Power, also persists with its aggressions on the Palestinian civilian population, including its attacks on children.

Among the latest casualties of Israeli brutality against the Palestinian people was a little boy, 2-year-old Mohammed Haitham Ibrahim Tamimi, who died on 5 June after being shot in the head with live ammunition deliberately fired at him and his father by Israeli soldiers that had raided the village of Nabi Saleh on 1 June, a village that has suffered constant attacks and repression at the hands of Israeli occupying forces and settlers. Mohammed is the twentieth Palestinian child shot and killed by Israel in 2023. Another Israeli war crime against a defenceless, innocent child, with no consequences.

Also, yesterday, another Palestinian youth, 19-year-old Faris Abdul Munim Hashash, was killed by Israeli occupying forces in yet another military raid of the Balata refugee camp in Nablus. Faris was targeted with bullets to the chest, abdomen and lower limbs, and eight other Palestinians were injured in the Israeli assault on the camp.

In every action, every single day, the Israeli occupying forces prove their total disregard for Palestinian lives, including of children. But these actions are not reckless, unintentional results of the occupation, they are integral to imposing it.

Violent repression of the Palestinian people – instilling fear and terror, inflicting loss and trauma on the population, incarcerating the population and quashing any legitimate resistance to this 56-year occupation – is one of the primary means employed by Israel to ensure its continued control of the Palestinian land and to facilitate its colonization and annexation. All such actions are deliberate, interconnected, grave breaches being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, and its military and settler militias.

Words of condemnation alone are insufficient to rectify this abysmal reality; it is time to translate condemnations of Israel’s illegal policies and practices into serious, practical measures of accountability. Any and all forms of assistance to this illegal colonial apartheid occupation must cease. There must be consequences for Israeli settlement activities that continue in flagrant contempt of the Security Council, the

General Assembly, the International Court Justice and the international community as a whole. Israel must be held accountable for its aggressions against the Palestinian people, including its systematic targeting of Palestinian children, who are being killed and maimed, arrested and detained, denied their fundamental rights, and bearing untold traumas. This must begin by listing Israel as a violator of child rights. Israeli officials, military personnel and settlers must bear the consequences for their crimes.

Israel's refusal to respect international law shows that there is no other way to deter and bring a halt to these crimes. It is urgent that action be taken to protect the Palestinian people and to salvage the prospects for a just solution that will guarantee the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the peace and security that they and our region have for too long been deprived of. We thus call again the international community, including the Security Council, to act forthwith to uphold the rule of law and their unfulfilled responsibilities towards the question of Palestine.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 792 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 31 May 2023 ([A/ES-10/940-S/2023/396](#)), 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
