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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 20 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

I regret to inform you of yet another Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the city and refugee camp of Jenin in the occupied West Bank that has caused death and injury, including to children, and spread destruction, fear and terror.

Yesterday, a large contingent of the Israeli occupying forces, comprising at least 120 military vehicles and using all forms of weaponry, including military helicopters, attacked the city of Jenin and refugee camp, terrorizing the civilian population. Claiming to be undertaking an “arrest raid”, the Israeli occupying forces deployed snipers throughout the area, particularly in the Al-Hadaf and Jabriyat neighbourhoods of the camp, and soldiers deliberately fired live ammunition, stun grenades and tear gas at civilians.

The Israeli assault killed six Palestinians, among them one child and four youths, and injured over 90 Palestinians, 23 of whom are in critical condition, among them a 15-year old girl who was shot in the head by Israeli fire. The Palestinians murdered by the Israeli occupying forces were a 15-year-old boy, Ahmad Youssef Saqer; Ahmed Daraghme, age 19; Khaled Azzam Darwish, age 21; Qassam Faisal Abu Sariya, age 29; and Qais Majdi Jabbarin, age 21.

Today, 48-year-old Amjad Aref Abu Jas, who like many others was struggling to survive from the severe injuries sustained in the Israeli attack, died, further devastating the family, as in January of this year Amjad’s son, Waseem Amjed Aref Al-Jas, age 22, was killed in an Israeli raid on Jenin that killed 10 other Palestinians.

We call for the international community’s immediate attention to this alarming aggression by Israel against the Palestinian people. The lives of millions of civilians are at stake in the absence of protection for the Palestinian civilian population under Israel’s occupation and in the face of a blatant escalation of lethal violence by the occupying Power, which continues to perpetrate war crimes with impunity.



In fact, this is the first time since 2002 that the Israeli occupying forces have used airstrikes in an attack in the occupied West Bank, gravely endangering civilian lives. Once more, humanitarian personnel were also intentionally targeted, as an Israeli military vehicle struck a Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance to prevent it from reaching the casualties. Witnesses reported that the Israeli occupying forces also used civilians as human shields and Palestinian journalists were again shot at as Israel continues attempts to intimidate and silence journalists. Alongside damage caused to civilian properties, a military bulldozer destroyed a transporting water line and caused power outages in large parts of the Jenin camp.

Such repugnant, criminal behaviour cannot be normalized, justified or excused. In just this one attack, the Israeli occupying forces have committed wanton and wilful breaches of international law, breaches that are being perpetrated every single day as Israel persists with this illegal occupation without consequences.

The absence of accountability is clearly emboldening its criminality and savagery against the Palestinian people, a grim reality reflected in the intensification and acceleration of illegal policies and practices aimed at attaining its objectives, namely, to make permanent its control of the Palestinian land, i.e. acquisition of territory by force, and its domination of the Palestinian people; i.e. the practice of apartheid, both prohibited by international law and both constituting war crimes.

Israel must be held fully accountable for all of its human rights violations and war crimes. We reiterate: such deadly and destructive violence by Israel is not just a by-product of the occupation, it is a driver and sustainer of the occupation, one of the main methods used by Israel – by its government, its military and its settler militias – to terrorize and repress the Palestinian people in order to ensure its continued control of the Palestinian territory and enable its colonization and annexation to proceed without opposition.

We warn about the rising threats in this regard, which are actually being pushed and boasted about openly by Israeli officials, including by far-right Minister, Bezalel Smotrich, who is on record denying the Palestinian people's existence and who has publicly called for air and tank forces to launch attacks on Palestinian cities and for lethal force to be used against defenceless civilians under military occupation, including his call for the village of Huwwarra to be "wiped out". It is not coincidental that the Israeli Government has given Smotrich control over the criminal campaign of planning, construction and expansion of Israel's colonial settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The connection is obvious and cannot be ignored as Israel proceeds with the ethnic cleansing of our people and the annexation of the Palestinian land.

The international community cannot accept this as a fait accompli; it must come to the aid of the Palestinian people to protect them and take a firm stand against this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime. It must act, tangibly and urgently, to uphold international law, including humanitarian and human rights law. The Security Council in particular has an obligation to act now to uphold its Charter mandate.

It is past time to implement the many relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions; to pursue justice through the international judicial bodies, including the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court; to list Israel as a serial violator of child rights; for the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to act to respect and ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances. Millions of civilian lives and the prospects for a just and peaceful solution are at stake.

Fulfilling these obligations and responsibilities towards Palestine are vital for protecting the Palestinian civilians, including children and women, for promoting the realization of their long-delayed and gravely breached rights, including to self-determination and freedom, and equally vital for preserving the meaning, purposes and principles of international law as a whole for the benefit of humankind as a whole.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 793 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 15 June 2023 ([A/ES-10/941-S/2023/441](#)) 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
