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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 5 July 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

Let it be once again placed on record that Israel, an occupying Power, a settler-colonial, apartheid state, is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Occupied Palestine.

Over the course of 48 hours, Israel carried out its cynically named military aggression, “Operation Home and Garden”, in the Jenin refugee camp, its soldiers terrorizing, killing, maiming and forcibly displacing Palestinians and destroying civilian properties, wantonly and wilfully, in grave breach of the law.

As of the writing of the present letter, Israeli occupying forces have killed 12 Palestinians, among them 5 children, and have wounded over 140 people, at least 20 of whom are in critical condition. More than 3,500 Palestine refugees living in the camp were forced to leave their homes in search of protection from the Israeli onslaught, in scenes frighteningly reminiscent of the 1947/48 Nakba. These families fled in fear for the safety of their children, their elderly and for the women and men whose lives are endangered by the non-stop Nakba being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people.

Alongside the human toll, the Israeli air strikes and bombardments and barbaric use of military bulldozers in the densely populated camp caused massive destruction to homes, roads, water, sanitation and electricity networks. The swathes of destruction severely impaired movement, especially for disabled persons and medics trying to reach the wounded. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East facilities, including schools and the health centre in the Jenin camp, were unable to operate owing to the perilous situation. The Palestine Red Crescent Society has warned that the humanitarian situation is dire, as needs have been dramatically exacerbated by the Israeli aggression.

We thus reiterate the urgent calls of the Palestinian leadership to the Security Council to overcome its paralysis and to act, in line with its Charter duties and its own resolutions, to protect the Palestinian people. They are entitled to protection in



accordance with international law and are in desperate need of it. This must begin with the implementation of resolution 904 (1994), including the disarming of the Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Secretary-General's recommendations to the General Assembly in 2018 for protection of the Palestinian people.

The Security Council must speak with one voice, loud and clear, to demand a halt to the deadly violence and all other illegal Israeli practices and to demand that Israel comply with international law, including respect for the Council's resolutions. Allowing Israel to continue acting with such blatant contempt for the Council without a single consequence discredits the Council's authority, to the detriment of the international community as a whole, imperilling more lives and heightening the threats to international peace and security.

We recall that Palestine remains under Israeli occupation, that international humanitarian law fully applies, and that the safety and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population must be of the utmost concern. Prioritizing the so-called "right to self-defence" of the occupying Power, which is the aggressor, over the right to life and to defence of the occupied population, which is under attack, is offensive and immoral.

As the occupying Power, Israel has absolutely no sovereignty rights in our land and no right whatsoever to come into our homes, neighbourhoods, camps, villages, towns and cities. Yet it continues to do so with impunity, attacking and terrorizing, while audaciously claiming to be "protecting itself" from the very people, including children and women, that it is occupying and viciously persecuting. Moreover, it has no right to label an entire people trying to live peacefully in their own homeland as "terrorists" and to brand anyone opposing its illegal presence as a "militant" that it must target for death.

This false and vulgar Israeli narrative must be rejected. The Palestinian people have every right to oppose and resist Israel's occupation and all of the illegal policies and practices that sustain this illegal occupation and its illegitimate annexationist agenda.

In this regard, the ultimate aim of Israel's deadly and discriminatory actions in Jenin and anywhere else in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is patently clear: repression and domination of the Palestinian people to clear the way for Israeli settlement colonization and enable its permanent control of the Palestinian land, i.e. annexation and thwarting the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. This was openly declared by the fascist Israeli Minister Ben-Gvir: "The Land of Israel must be settled ... and a military operation must be launched. Demolish buildings, eliminate terrorists. Not one or two, but tens and hundreds, and if necessary even thousands."

These are the words of criminals. The international community must stand up and confront those who are trampling the law, not pillory and condemn those legitimately seeking their rights and trying to protect themselves. It is time for the international community to abandon double standards and uphold the law equally, in all circumstances, and put an end to this deplorable situation whereby Israel is treated as a state above the law, shielded from any consequences for the war crimes and crimes against humanity it is committing.

It is time for protection for the Palestinian people after decades of suffering this egregious injustice. It is time for accountability, to hold Israeli government and military officials and settler extremists and militias responsible to the fullest extent of the law for all of the crimes they have perpetrated and continue to perpetrate in Occupied Palestine, including in Jerusalem. It is time to end this illegal colonial

occupation and the abhorrent apartheid being perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

We urge the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and all States, including as High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to uphold their legal obligations and responsibilities and to act now for the sake of justice and for the sake of peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 796 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 3 July 2023 ([A/ES-10/944-S/2023/494](#)), 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
