



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2023

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5

**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Security Council
Seventy-eighth year

Identical letters dated 21 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

In advance of the Security Council's upcoming quarterly open debate on the Palestine question, I must draw your attention to the ongoing human rights violations being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people as it presses on with its colonization and annexation of Palestine's land. Not for a single minute has Israel ceased its war crimes and crimes against humanity against our people.

In the period since our previous letter, more Palestinians have been killed and injured by the Israeli occupying forces, including settler militias; have been forcibly displaced from their homes, their properties seized or demolished; have been arrested and detained; and have suffered the discrimination, indignities and miseries inflicted by this illegal settler-colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

In the Jenin refugee camp, the terror and havoc wrought by the Israeli occupying forces continues to gravely impair the lives of thousands of civilians, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged by the Israeli assault, many of whose neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble and left without access to water and electricity and whose lives have been savagely upended. As reported by the United Nations on the ground, such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the scene in Jenin camp is one of widespread destruction and devastation and of a traumatized population.

In those two days of military aggression, Israeli soldiers killed at least 12 people, among them 4 children, injured another 140 people, some severely wounded, and damaged at least 900 homes, many now uninhabitable, forcibly displacing refugee families yet again. Witnessing the harrowing aftermath of this Israeli assault, the Deputy Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Leni Stenseth, stated: "The destruction I saw was shocking. Some houses were completely burned down, cars had been crushed against walls, roads were damaged. The UNRWA health center



was destroyed. But more than the physical damage, I saw the trauma in the eyes of camp residents who had witnessed the violence. I heard them speak about their exhaustion and fear”.

Describing the aggression’s impact on children specifically, the Director of UNRWA Operations in the West Bank, Adam Bouloukos, stated: “Children were shaken and shocked. Far from all students attended school today, as many of them were too afraid to leave their homes. In one classroom we visited, students shared with us that just 10 days ago, they had buried a classmate who was killed in an earlier incursion ... It is very hard for children to walk to school as the main roads are still unusable. When trying to find alternative ways to school, some younger children lost their way. We truly feared for their safety due to the risks of unexploded ordinance. A priority now is to provide mental and psychosocial support to help children cope with their fear and anxiety”.

This is the recurrent plight of Palestinians under Israeli occupation. It is one of constant violence and trauma, despite the fact that international humanitarian law requires that the Palestinian civilian population be protected and prohibits such attacks on civilians and civilian objects and infrastructure. Yet, left unprotected and at the mercy of this illegal occupation, as the international community, including the Security Council, continues to fail to uphold its obligations, Palestinian children, women and men in Occupied Palestine continue to endure endless cycles of aggression, abuse and destruction at the hands of the occupying forces and the settler militias, who are openly aiding and abetting Israel’s soldiers and are in turn aided and abetted by them. Together, they are acting hand-in-glove, with the full support and direction of the Israeli government, comprising one lethal force bent on the oppression and domination of the Palestinian people and the colonization and annexation of their land.

Among the recent civilian casualties of this perpetual onslaught: three Palestinian men, Hamza Maqboul and Khairi Shaheen, who were killed by Israeli occupying forces in a raid on Nablus, and Abdel Jawad Hamdan Saleh, aged 24, who was killed by Israeli occupying forces on 7 July in the village of Umm al-Safa near Ramallah; Bilal Qadah, aged 33 and a father of three children, who was shot on 7 July by Israeli occupying forces at a checkpoint near Dayr Nizam and left on the road to bleed to death as ambulances were prevented from reaching him; a Palestinian youth, Bader Al-Masri, aged 19, who was killed yesterday, 20 July, in another raid by Israeli occupying forces and settlers in Nablus; and today, Israeli occupying forces again raiding Umm al-Safa killed yet another Palestinian child, 17-year-old Mohammed Fuad Al-Bayyed, shooting him in the head with live ammunition. Several other civilians have been injured in these raids, some in critical condition with wounds to the abdomen and chest.

Alongside the grief of families who have lost their loved ones and of the society as a whole in the face of Israel’s constant violation of the right to life, the human toll of this illegal settler-colonial, apartheid occupation also continues to be borne by Palestinian families who have been expelled from their homes, or the thousands who are being openly threatened with dispossession and expulsion. The seizure and demolition of homes and transfer of Palestinians is happening every day as Israel continues its policy of “displacement and replacement”, forcibly displacing Palestinians and replacing them with Jewish settlers, an illegal practice targeting occupied East Jerusalem in particular, especially the Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods.

The most recent shocking incident in this regard was the expulsion of the Sub Laban family from their home after 45 years of struggling against constant harassment and settler attempts to expel them. On 11 July, Israeli authorities forcibly evicted Nora

Ghaith and Mustafa Sub Laban from their home, which they have lived in for 70 years in the Old City of Jerusalem, and allowed settlers to enter and overtake the home.

The expulsion of Nora and Mustafa, aged 68 and 72, who were given only minutes to retrieve a few personal belongings and who had to leave their furniture and other belongings behind, followed the expulsion of six other family members, namely their children and grandchildren, who were prohibited from living in the home by an Israeli court. This expulsion of the elderly couple was carried out at the behest of settler organizations that have harassed and brought lawsuits against the Sub Laban family for years on the basis of discriminatory laws applied by Israel only to Palestinians and aimed at forcibly removing them from the City as part of constant attempts to alter the demography, character and status of the City and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in grave breach of international law.

A 12 July statement on this matter by independent United Nations experts stressed that “forced evictions of Palestinians in east Jerusalem are part of Israel’s apartheid machinery at work, designed to consolidate Jewish ownership of Jerusalem and racially dominate the city’s population”. They further underscored that “Israel’s transfer of its own population into the occupied territory is a gross violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime,” and that “Nothing speaks more blatantly of its intention to annex and colonise the occupied territory in violation of international law.”

Against the backdrop of all these criminal acts and the increasing volatility of the situation, the Security Council’s engagement on the Palestine question cannot be considered a routine matter. The Council must act, seriously and practically, to implement its dozens of resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), that have affirmed the illegality of these Israeli policies and practices and have demanded that they be halted. In the face of continued Israeli defiance, the Security Council and all relevant United Nations organs and bodies, including the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice, and all States must act forthwith to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, is held accountable, to bring justice to the Palestinian people and to aid them in the realization of their long-delayed inalienable rights, including the rights to self-determination and return, and to ensure their protection pending a just solution.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 797 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-10/945-S/2023/500](#)), 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