



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
11 August 2023

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5

Security Council
Seventy-eighth year

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

Identical letters dated 5 August 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

Every single day, Palestinian children and youth are being killed, injured, detained, abused and traumatized by Israel, the occupying Power, its occupying forces and settler militias. Every single day, another Palestinian family mourns the loss of its child; every single day, an entire nation grieves, certain that no Palestinian is safe, and no life is spared under Israel's illegal and colonial occupation.

Israel's crimes against Palestinian children and youth continue unabatedly and savagely.

Israel's policy and pattern of targeting and executing Palestinian children is well-documented. The criminality is harrowing. On 2 August 2023, Israeli occupying forces attacked and killed 17-year-old Mohammad Al-Za'arir near Hebron and confiscated his body, adding another layer of Israeli criminality against Palestinian children. We recall here that Israel is the only country in the world with a policy of confiscating the bodies of the civilians it kills in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including of children. It is currently withholding the bodies of at least 14 Palestinian children, denying them and their families proper burial.

Two days later, on 4 August 2023, Israeli soldiers invaded Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm, causing destruction and havoc to yet another refugee camp, during which Israeli soldiers first shot 17-year-old Mahmoud Abu Sa'an from a distance of around 50 m, and, as he fell to the ground screaming, the soldiers approached him and shot him again in the head, with two bullets, from a distance of 3 m. Israeli soldiers executed Mahmoud and, a few hours later, settler militias, protected by occupying forces, attacked the village of Burqah near Ramallah, burning cars and houses, and shot and killed 19-year-old Qusay Maatan.

It cannot be that children's rights are so grossly violated and that they are left vulnerable and defenceless in the face of such brutality with international silence. The killing of children cannot be denied or ignored by those who continue to try to excuse Israel's crimes and shield it from consequences. Allowing Israeli crimes against



children to go unchecked is sanctioning the killing of children. This wilful disregard for the lives and well-being of Palestinian children must end.

Since the beginning of 2023, Israel, the occupying Power, and its occupying forces have killed over 38 children, mostly with live ammunition targeting upper body parts, and have maimed and caused grave injuries to over 1,000 children.

Among those injured this year, as reported by Defence for Children International, are 16-year-old Omar Talal Mohammad Assi, 5-year-old Khaled Akram Khaled Malalha and 16-year-old Ashraf Mahmoud Najeeb Farahti, who have all lost vision in at least one eye after Israeli forces attacked them. Israel, the occupying Power, has also unlawfully detained over 568 children this year alone, many languishing in administrative detention.

We call for all necessary efforts to ensure the protection of Palestinian children under this illegal colonial occupation. This Israeli pattern of targeting and persecuting children, in particular boys, clearly aims at creating a most coercive and intimidating environment for Palestinian families to quash any form of legitimate resistance to this criminal occupation and apartheid regime.

It is not a coincidence that Israeli crimes and settler terrorism against the Palestinian people, in particular children, are escalating as the Israeli authorities continue to further entrench the illegal occupation and settlement enterprise. The first half of 2023 emerged as a record-breaking year in terms of Israeli settlement-building and expansion as well as settler terrorism and violence against the Palestinian people. With 12,855 approved so-called settlement units, emboldened fanatic settlers have initiated and engaged in over 591 terrorist attacks. According to a spokesperson for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: “That’s an average of 99 incidents every month, and a 39-percent-increase compared with the monthly average of the whole of 2022, which is 71”, leading to destruction and forcible displacement of families and entire communities.

Whether in Burqah, where Qusay was killed, or Dayr Dibwan near Ramallah, Mu‘arrajat near Jericho, Halhul in Hebron, Huwwarah in Nablus and other villages, refugee camps and cities that have been attacked by settlers and occupying forces over the past few days, the aim is clear: burn the homes of Palestinians, kill them, forcibly displace them, steal their lands and homes and build settlements. These coordinated attacks between settlers and the occupying forces and continued State-sponsored terrorism are among the means of forcible displacement that Israel, the occupying Power, resorts to in order to consolidate its annexation and entrench its illegal occupation.

The crisis also continues to deepen with the ongoing Israeli seizure and demolition of Palestinian homes and properties. Nearly every day, a Palestinian home is demolished or receives a demolition order, with thousands of Palestinians under threat of losing their homes and lands. In July 2023 alone, the Israeli occupying authorities demolished, confiscated or forced people to demolish 54 properties and homes, displacing 66 Palestinians, including 34 children, and affecting the livelihoods of more than 795. Since the beginning of the year, Israel, the occupying Power, has displaced over 930 Palestinians, including 426 children, and demolished over 529 houses and structures.

We reiterate our standing call on the international community, including the Security Council, to act forthwith, in line with international law, including the relevant United Nations resolutions, to redress this appalling situation. We thus reiterate our calls for urgent international intervention to protect the Palestinian people, including, in particular, children, whose lives and futures are gravely endangered by this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime. The protections

afforded to all civilians under international humanitarian law must be enacted, and United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [904 \(1994\)](#), which called on Israel to, inter alia, undertake “the confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers” and called for “measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory, including, inter alia, a temporary international or foreign presence”, must be implemented without delay.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 798 letters regarding the ongoing crisis 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 21 July 2023 ([A/ES-10/946-S/2023/547](#)), 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
