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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 17 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

Unchecked and emboldened by the silence of the international community, including the Security Council, Israel, the occupying Power, continues its killing spree in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Israeli soldiers and settlers are violently targeting Palestinian civilians, including children, without a shred of remorse or fear of consequences, as every component of this settler-colonial and apartheid regime – from the Israeli government to the Israeli military to the settler militias – continues to evade accountability.

Since my last letter, more Palestinian youth and children have lost their lives to this illegal occupation. The recent casualties include:

17 August: Israeli occupying forces again violently raided the city of Jenin, killing one Palestinian, Mustafa al-Kastouni, age 32, who was shot in the head, chest and abdomen. A Palestinian woman who works as a nurse was also injured in the attack, sustaining gunshot wounds to the chest and abdomen

15 August: the Israeli occupying forces carried out yet another military raid on the Aqbat Jabr refugee camp in the city of Jericho, killing a Palestinian boy, Qusai Omar Mohammed Suleiman, age 16, and Mohammed Njam, age 25. Qusai was on his motorbike about 50 metres from where the Israeli occupying forces were deployed when soldiers fired live ammunition towards him and other Palestinians nearby. Qusai suffered a gunshot wound to his chest and bled for approximately 15 minutes before he could be evacuated, and died soon thereafter. Eleven Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Aqbat Jabr camp since the beginning of the year, as Israel continues attacking the camp and its residents

10 August: the Israeli occupying forces raided the village of Zawata near Nablus, killing Amir Ahmad Khalifa, age 23, with live ammunition to the head and back, amounting to an extrajudicial execution



7 August: a Palestinian boy, Ramzi Fathi Abdurahman Hamed, age 17, died of wounds sustained after an Israeli settlement guard shot at the car that Ramzi and his friends were riding in from a distance of about 10 metres (33 feet), striking Ramzi in the chest and abdomen, on 2 August near the village of Silwad

6 August: Israeli soldiers ambushed and attacked a vehicle near the village of Araba, close to Jenin, firing over 100 bullets and killing three Palestinians, including a child, Bara Ahmad Fayez Al-Qerm, age 16, along with Nayef Abu Tsuik, age 26. The Israeli occupying forces confiscated the bodies of the three Palestinians killed, including Bara.

Absent any form of international protection, the vulnerability of children in particular to the brutality of the Israeli occupying forces and settler gangs is sharply rising. According to the non-governmental organization Defense for Children International, 41 Palestinian children have been killed in 2023 alone, with soldiers and settlers shooting and killing 33 Palestinian children; one Palestinian child killed in a targeted drone strike in the West Bank; 6 Palestinian children killed in the May 2023 Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip; and a 10-year-old Palestinian child dying of head wounds sustained in the August 2022 Israeli aggression on Gaza. And yet, Israel and its occupying forces continue to be illogically omitted from the list of perpetual violators of child rights, further evading accountability.

In addition to those killed, Palestinian civilians also continue to be injured, many severely, in attacks by Israeli soldiers and settlers. As reported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in just a two-week period from 25 July to 7 August, at least 276 Palestinians, among them 60 children, were injured by Israeli occupying forces. Yesterday alone, 85 Palestinians were injured in an Israeli military raid on the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, including 8 people shot with live ammunition. This brings the total of Palestinians injured since the start of 2023 to more than 700 people, with many of them suffering lifelong injuries and disabilities as a result.

Settler attacks in particular are increasing in frequency and severity as the settler population illegally transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, becomes ever more emboldened by Israel's extremist government and the settlers within its highest ranks who continue to directly and indirectly aid and abet settler gangs and militias, as exemplified by a recent decision to allocate millions of dollars more to so-called settlement outposts illegally established on Palestinian land. As recently stated by the spokesperson for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Jens Laerke: "In the first six months of 2023, the United Nations has recorded 591 settler-related incidents resulting in Palestinian casualties, property damage or both ... Palestinian herding communities are particularly vulnerable to these and other settlement activities. This year and last, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has documented the displacement of at least 399 people from settler violence, from seven Palestinian herding communities across the occupied Palestinian territory. Three of these communities are now completely empty."

This includes the Ras al-Tin herding community, comprising 89 Palestinians, including 39 children, who were forced to dismantle their residential and livelihood structures and relocate to a safer place. Denied protection, they left their homes due to relentless settler harassment and violence that followed the establishment of new so-called "farming settlement outposts", as settlers forcibly took over the community's grazing lands and vineyards under the watch of the Israeli occupying forces. This is yet another blatant example of Israel's settler-colonial agenda aimed at ethnically cleansing the Palestinian land of its indigenous inhabitants and replacing

them with Jewish settlers in a flagrant attempt to colonize and annex our land, constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity.

As the Security Council prepares to meet on 21 August to again address the Palestine question, we urge serious and forthright consideration of its responsibilities to confront this illegal situation. Allowing this situation to be treated as a rote matter while millions of civilian lives are endangered and the prospects for a just peace are torpedoed by the extremist apartheid Israeli government is not only negligent, it is unconscionable. The international community must demand respect for the rule of law and stop exempting Israel from responsibility for its violations. We thus reiterate our calls for all necessary measures, in accordance with international law, to hold Israel accountable for its crimes against the Palestinian people and to ensure their protection until the achievement of a just solution that fulfils their inalienable human rights and ensure to them the freedom and dignity they have for too long been denied.

This letter is in follow-up to our 799 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 5 August 2023 ([A/ES-10/947-S/2023/584](#)) 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
