



# General Assembly Security Council

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**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 30 October 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 the five days since my last letter ([A/ES-10/962-S/2023/797](#)), another 3,000 Palestinians, including women and children, have been killed by Israel, the occupying Power, as it continues targeting the defenceless civilian population under its occupation and siege in the Gaza Strip, using all forms of lethal weaponry with absolute impunity. That the world still fails to act to stop this carnage and calamitous loss of human lives is inexcusable – a stain on the global conscience.

While the General Assembly spoke loudly, on 27 October, adopting a resolution clearly condemning attacks on innocent civilians, whether Palestinian or Israeli, and calling for an immediate, sustained humanitarian truce; for the protection of civilians and civilian objects; for a halt to the forced transfer of Palestinian civilians; for immediate, unhindered humanitarian access to ensure civilians are not deprived of the food, water, medicines, fuel and shelter indispensable to their survival; and for full compliance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, Israel's response has been typical shameless contempt.

Ignoring the international community's demands and violating every single one of the resolution's provisions, Israel has actually intensified its criminal aggression against the Palestinian people. In addition to its indiscriminate attacks by air, land and sea, Israeli occupying forces launched a ground invasion into Gaza on 27 October, killing more civilians and destroying wantonly, while severing all communication with Gaza, including for humanitarian workers, in an attempt to perpetrate its terror and war crimes out of view of the world.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, Catherine Russell, stated then: "We have lost touch with our colleagues in Gaza. I'm extremely concerned about their safety and another night of unspeakable horror for 1 million children in Gaza. All humanitarians and the children and families they serve must be protected."



Yet Israeli soldiers and commanders have pressed on with their war crimes, killing more than 8,000 Palestinians in this 23-day aggression on Gaza and injuring more than 20,240 Palestinians, many permanently and many of whom will not survive their wounds. Shockingly, Israel's attacks have also killed 63 staff members of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the past three weeks, along with medics and journalists, who have been openly targeted.

The majority of victims of Israel's aggression have been children and women, with the number of child victims surpassing 3,000 killed and the number of women victims surpassing 2,000 killed. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that 3,324 Palestinian children in Gaza and 33 Palestinian children in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli attacks. But the casualty toll is likely much higher, as upwards of 1,000 children are missing, most probably buried alive, perished under the rubble.

Save the Children has found that "the number of children reported killed in Gaza in just three weeks has surpassed the annual number of children killed across the world's conflict zones since 2019". In any other country, such devastating figures would be unthinkable, obliging the international community, not least the Security Council, to act. And yet, in Palestine, the lives of our children continue to be abandoned, with the world looking on as Israel inflicts this gruesome Nakba against the Palestinian people without consequence.

Many of the children killed are from the same family, as Israel continues massacring entire families. An estimated 192 Palestinian families have lost 10 or more members, with some losing even more than 20, 30 or 40 persons; at least 136 Palestinian families have lost 6 to 9 members; and 444 families have lost 2 to 5 members. In just one attack, on 29 October, missiles from Israeli occupying forces struck a home in Jabaliya, killing 26 people, while 14 others remain under the rubble. How can anyone justify such horrors and justify blocking international action to halt the bloodshed under the false, twisted pretext of a right to self-defence by the occupying Power?

As fears of more massacres grip Gaza as Israel escalates bombings in the north and south, we appeal for immediate international action to stop this slaughter. We call on the Security Council to uphold its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and protect Palestinian civilians from Israel's vengeful, maniacal war of aggression and collective punishment.

Demand a ceasefire now. The violence must be stopped. Civilian lives must be saved. Demand an end to Israel's inhumane siege and collective punishment of the entire population that is causing starvation, dehydration, disease and despair to spread like wildfire among the population of 2.3 million people, over 1.4 million of them now forcibly displaced from their homes by the indiscriminate assaults on civilian areas and the military orders and threats to evacuate, which are leaving thousands of wounded without proper medical care.

Demand a halt to Israel's threats against hospitals, which command them to evacuate or risk being bombed, endangering the lives of patients, medical and humanitarian personnel, and thousands who have sheltered in hospital compounds with nowhere else to go to protect themselves and their children from Israeli attacks. Demand that international humanitarian law be respected, immediately and without exception.

As the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports, more than 100,000 displaced Palestinians are sheltering in hospitals across Gaza, living in corridors, waiting rooms, courtyards, sidewalks and literally outside the walls of hospitals in desperate hope of staying alive amid near-constant Israeli bombardment and a spiralling humanitarian catastrophe. As the present letter is being written,

invading Israeli tanks continue indiscriminately shelling northern Gaza and Israeli warplanes are bombing neighbourhoods near several hospitals – Al-Shifa Hospital, Al-Quds Hospital and the Indonesian Hospital are all under threat – provoking fears of another massacre by Israel just as it committed against Al-Ahli Arabi Baptist Hospital on 17 October.

Such rogue, immoral acts should not surprise anyone, as the occupying Power has a long and dark history of targeting civilians, residential buildings, hospitals, infrastructure, humanitarians and journalists. And we all know that what has enabled this to go on is, without any shadow of a doubt, the lack of accountability or any single consequence for Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza and in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, where it also continues its attacks on the Palestinian people.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel is blatantly escalating crimes against our people through extrajudicial killings, settler violence, even more severe movement restrictions, mass arrests, home demolitions and intensified abuse of Palestinians imprisoned in occupation jails. More than 115 Palestinians, including 33 children, have been killed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers in October, and towns and villages have been besieged and cut off from one another and are constantly attacked by armed Jewish settler militias. Under the full protection of Israeli occupying forces, these extremist settler mobs are terrorizing our people, attacking Palestinian men, women and children alike, and setting fire and destroying properties in actions that even Israelis themselves have deemed pogroms.

How many more Palestinian children must be obliterated for the Security Council to act to halt Israel's aggressions? How many more are to be buried beneath rubble before there is accountability? Why, until now, has Israel not been listed as the serial violator of child rights that it is? How many more Palestinian families will be destroyed before the Security Council finally acts?

Although the General Assembly's principled voice cannot cure the Security Council's paralysis, the international community has made it loud and clear that a humanitarian ceasefire must be implemented now to stop the killing of Palestinian children, women and men and to provide them with desperately needed humanitarian assistance. The Security Council must uphold its responsibilities and must listen to the world's conscience to save the millions of civilian lives at risk in this unimaginable humanitarian catastrophe and avert the grave threats to regional and international peace and security caused by this criminal Israeli aggression.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 810 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 25 October 2023 (A/ES-10/962-S/2023/797) 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, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be 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