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**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE**

**Letter dated 22 October 2002 from the Permanent Observer for Palestine
to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Israeli occupation forces continue indiscriminately to use their heavy war machine and lethal weaponry against Palestinian civilians, causing with each passing day more casualties, among the defenceless Palestinian civilians, including children, thus proving once more that Israel is determined to pursue its campaign of bloody war, State sponsored terrorism, wilful killings and destruction of the entire Palestinian infrastructure.

Early this morning, the Israel occupation forces using heavy machine-gun fire indiscriminately shelled Palestinian homes to the south-east of Deir Al-Balah, causing widespread destruction and terrorizing the inhabitants, mainly children who were on their way to school. They shelled with tank fire a Palestinian police post in the Gaza Strip for no apparent reason. They continue to impose a curfew on most Palestinian areas, to tighten their already suffocating siege and to deny the besieged Palestinian population any access to food, medicine or medical treatment in hospitals. They continue to invade Palestinian controlled areas, destroying everything in their path and to arrest scores of Palestinians and take them to unknown destinations where they are subjected to excessive torture without trial. They also continue to detain at the Israeli roadblocks for long hours hundreds of Palestinians on their way to work, to hospital or just out to buy the necessary foodstuffs for their families, subjecting them to all forms of degrading and inhuman treatment.

As if these Israeli arbitrary practices were not enough, the Israeli settlers for their part continue to terrorize Palestinians who happen to pass by or who live close to the illegal Israeli settlements by launching systematic attacks against the villagers, burning their vehicles, destroying their crops, uprooting their trees, confiscating their agricultural lands and expropriating their homes.

Herewith enclosed for further information memorandums issued by the Palestinian National Authority on the Israeli daily aggressions against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories for the period from 13 to 20 October 2002.

All these practices pursued by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers, which target Palestinian civilians, constitute flagrant violations of human rights, of all the principles of international law, international humanitarian law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of war of 1949.

We reiterate our appeal to your Excellency to call on the Government of Israel to put an end to its aggressive attacks against innocent Palestinian civilians and to live up to its obligations under international humanitarian law, and also to use your good offices in order to provide international protection for the defenceless Palestinian civilian population until Israel withdraws from all the Palestinian occupied territories.

I would be most grateful if you could arrange to have this letter and the annex thereto* circulated to the distinguished members of the Commission on Human Rights as an official document of its fifty-ninth session under agenda item 8.

(Signed): Nabil RAMLAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Sunday, October 13

To: 19.00hrs Monday, October 14

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[2] Palestinians were killed, [25] were injured among them [7] children, [3] in critical condition including one child and [32] were arrested. [330] Trees were uprooted and [80] dunams were bulldozed. [20] Houses, [16] vehicle, [7] economic establishments, [2] schools, [4] greenhouses, [1] animal farm and [1] institution were destroyed or damaged. [1] New Israeli military post was erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [12] & bombarded by machinegun fire [27] times.

- Jerusalem: The Israeli occupation forces arrested [1290] Palestinians in Jerusalem and held quick trials.
- Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces stormed Palestinian residential houses in several villages, searched, ransacked, looted properties and arrested [7] Palestinians. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers opened fire at farmers and looted farmers' equipment.
- Nablus: The occupation forces stormed Palestinian residential houses in the city and its refugee camps and villages ransacked properties and arrested [7] Palestinians. They also bombarded residential houses in the old Rojeeb street area causing severe damage to public and private properties.
- Jenin: The Israeli Apache helicopters and tanks opened fire and bombarded a civilian vehicle, killing [2] Palestinians and critically injuring passengers. They also arrested [3] Palestinians from the village of Manshiya, marked a number of houses in the villages of Tura el Gharbiya and Dhahr el Malih to be demolished. They deliberately burnt the citizens' properties and caused severe damage to vast agricultural area.
- Qalqilya: The occupation forces tightened the curfew imposed on the city, closed down the entrance and prevented Palestinians from travelling.
- Hebron: A bunch of Jewish settlers stormed a school and a building for the Islamic wakf in the old city, ransacked and looted properties.

- Gaza: The Occupation forces positioned in Netsareem Jewish-only settlement bombarded Palestinian residential houses and a gas station in the vicinity, causing severe damage.
- Khan Younis: The occupation forcers opened fire and bombarded Palestinians' residential houses in Khan Yunis refugee camp, causing severe damage to properties and suddenly closed down Abu Holy military checkpoint, prevented Palestinians from travelling, searched and abused Palestinians and arrested Mohammed Fayadh, a Palestinian editor journalist in WAFA.
- Rafah: The occupation forces opened indiscriminate fire and bombarded Palestinians' residential houses in Rafah refugee camp. Mother, 24-year-old and [2] children (4-month-old, and 16-month-old) were injured among them one critically. Several houses were severely damaged.

Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Monday, October 14

To: 19.00hrs Tuesday, October 15

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[19] Palestinians were injured among them [6] children, [2] in critical condition including one child and [21] were arrested. [420] Trees were uprooted and [45] dunams were bulldozed. [26] Houses, [13] vehicle, including two ambulances, [5] economic establishments, [1] mosque, [1] hospital and [2] green houses were destroyed or damaged. Palestinian areas were shelled [10] & bombarded by machinegun fire [25] times.

- Jerusalem: Israeli occupation forces arrested the chief Muslim cleric in Jerusalem, Ikrema Sabri after storming and searching his house. Another [17] Palestinians were arrested.
- Ramallah & Al Birah: The Israeli occupation forces invaded the village of Ber Zeit and the buildings where the university students live, threatened students and opened fire at the building.
- Jenin: The Israeli occupation forces invaded six Palestinian villages, imposed curfew, blew up [2] houses and delivered demolishing orders to [5] families. Several houses were damaged and several others were searched and ransacked. A number of Palestinians were arrested. Jewish settlers continue to bar Palestinians from reaching their olive farms.
- Qalqilya: The Israeli occupation forces destroyed vast areas of agricultural land with olive trees in Al Khella area and south of the city. The water supply network was destroyed,
- Hebron: The Israeli occupation forces invaded the Naser Hospital in the village of Yatta and forced patients to abandon their beds and humiliate them. Meantime, five Palestinians were arrested in the village of Dora and several others were detained and humiliated for several hours.

- Jericho: The Israeli occupation forces invaded and searched Palestinian houses in the village of Al Oja and arrested one Palestinian.
- Mid Area: The Israeli occupation forces destroyed tens of fruitful trees and water supply network in the area of Hekr Al Jame and Al Berka.
- Khan Younis: The Israeli occupation forces opened fire and wounded one Palestinian while in his house in Bani Seheila. They also bombarded Palestinian houses in Al Namsawi neighborhood, Al Gharbi refugee camp and Al Delta area. One Palestinian from Rafah was arrested at Al Matahen military checkpoint.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Tuesday, October 15

To: 19.00hrs Wednesday, October 16

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[1] Palestinian was killed, [40] were injured among them [18] children, [6] in critical condition including [2] children and [26] were arrested. [900] Trees were uprooted and [130] dunams were bulldozed. [24] Houses, [21] vehicle, [6] economic establishments, [1] security post, [1] greenhouse and [2] schools were destroyed or damaged. Palestinian areas were shelled [14] & bombarded by machinegun fire [31] times.

- ◆ **Ramallah & Al Birah:** The Israeli occupation forces invaded Banayla neighborhoods and stormed and searched houses and opened fire at Palestinians in Al Jalazoun refugee camp wounding several people. They also prevented international peace activists from helping villagers pick their olive.
- ◆ **Jenin:** The Israeli occupation forces shot and critically injured one Palestinian and continued to hinder Palestinians movement.
- ◆ **Tolkarem:** The occupation forces shot dead Faysal Iez Abu Mowes (41) and searched houses and arrested eleven citizens.
- ◆ **Qalqilya:** The Israeli occupation forces invaded the city and stormed homes and arrested two citizens.

- ◆ ***Salfet:*** Jewish settlers attacked Palestinian olive pickers, forced them to leave their fields at gunpoint and confiscated their harvest.
- ◆ ***Hebron:*** The Israeli occupation forces invaded the villages of Yatta & Dora and arrested a number of Palestinians, while Jewish settlers started to bulldoze [100] dunams of Palestinian owned land.
- ◆ ***Bethlehem:*** The occupation forces invaded the village of Taqo and arrested one Palestinian, bulldozed [100] olive trees, isolated the northern part of the city and Jewish settlers opened fire at a school.
- ◆ ***Gaza:*** The occupation forces bombarded Sheik Ejleen area causing damage.
- ◆ ***Northern Gaza:*** The occupation forces bombarded the Bedouin village causing damage.
- ◆ ***Khan Younis:*** The Israeli occupation forces opened fire at AL Faraheen area causing damage.
- ◆ ***Rafah:*** The occupation forces bombarded AL Brazil neighborhood and wounded [13] citizens among them school children. They also started to build a 10- meter- watchtower.

Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Wednesday, October 16

To: 19.00hrs Thursday, October 17

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[9] Palestinians were killed among them [2] children, [63] were injured among them [35] children, [18] in critical condition including [9] children and [20] were arrested. [450] Trees were uprooted and [80] dunams were bulldozed. [40] Houses, [18] vehicles including two ambulances, [8] economic establishments, [1] security post, [1] greenhouse and [2] schools and [1] mosque were destroyed or damaged. Four new Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [19] & bombarded by machinegun fire [35] times.

- Jerusalem: The Israeli occupation forces stormed Al Qawasma building in Al Bareed suburb, imposed tight curfew on houses near Neveh Jacob Jewish settlement searched houses and ransacked properties. They also detained some Palestinians and arrested a Palestinian teacher.
- Ramallah & Al Birah: The Israeli occupation forces invaded Beir Zeit University, ransacked and confiscated properties and arrested five students. Another Palestinian was arrested downtown the city. They also bulldozed the main entrance of the city, dug trenches and erected dirt mounds.
- Nablus: The Israeli occupation forces invaded the village of Tel searched houses, ransacked properties, arrested six Palestinians and looted money.
- Jenin: The Israeli occupation forces invaded the city and imposed tight curfew on the city and its refugee camp and villages, opened indiscriminate fire at the Palestinians' residential houses causing severe damages. They also dug trenches around the city to prevent the Palestinians' movement.
- Tolkarem: The occupation forces damaged the main water tank of the village of Faroun and uprooted tens of olive & citrus trees in other villages. They also delivered orders of house demolitions to a number of Palestinians and bulldozed a vast area of agricultural land.

- Hebron: The Israeli occupation forces, backed by helicopters and under cover of heavy machinegun fire, invaded the town of Yatta, imposed tight curfew and demolished a Palestinian residential house and arrested the owner.
- Bethlehem: The occupation forces imposed strict curfew on the whole city and its villages, preventing Palestinian students and workers from reaching their destinations and ordered that Taqoa secondary school be closed down for seven days by military order.
- Mid Area: Under cover of heavy machinegun fire, the occupation forces penetrated for [300] meters into Al Birka area and bulldozed more than [50] dunams of olive and citrus trees and damaged the irrigation network.
- Khan Younis: The Israeli occupation forces bombarded the western camp and Al Nimsawi suburb with 500mm & 800 mm high caliber machineguns and caused severe damages.
- Rafah: A new massacre was committed when Israeli tanks shelled Palestinian residential houses in Block "O", killing [8] Palestinians and wounding at least [40] while they were inside their houses. Among the dead were two children: Shaimaa Abu Shammala, 7, and Mohammed Abu Hilal, 12. And 70-year-old woman Fatma Abu Jazar. Fifteen Palestinians were critically wounded among them a large number of children. Another old man died from serious wounds sustained the day before. The occupation forces prevented ambulances from reaching the scene.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Thursday, October 17

To: 19.00hrs, October 18

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[1] Palestinians was killed, [27] were injured among them [9] children, [2] in critical condition and [12] were arrested. [370] Trees were uprooted and [35] dunams were bulldozed. [17] Houses, [13] vehicles, [5] economic establishments, [1] security post were destroyed or damaged. [3] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [9] & bombarded by machinegun fire [24] times.

- ◆ **Ramallah & Al Birah:** The two cities and its refugee camps continue to be under curfew and the occupation forces arrested one Palestinian after storming his house.
- ◆ **Nablus:** The Israeli occupation forces invaded, searched and ransacked a Palestinian security post and arrested one officer. The occupation troops also erected a number of military checkpoints on the city's main road, attacked dozens and arrested one Palestinian after invading his house.
- ◆ **Jenin:** The Israeli occupation forces bulldozed the Jenin-Nablus road and detained several Palestinian vehicles and used them to close off the dirt roads. One Palestinian from the village of Tal was arrested and the occupation army prevented Palestinian farmers from reaching their olive farms. The occupation troops also bulldozed three dunams of land with fruitful trees and invaded the village of Kfar Raee.

- ◆ **Bethlehem:** The occupation forces continue to close off all crossroads in the area of Rachel Tomb and Efrat Jewish settlers attacked and wounded one Palestinian and uprooted tens of olive trees.
- ◆ **Northern Gaza:** The Israeli occupation forces fired machineguns and tank shells at residential areas killing one Palestinian and the occupation bulldozers destroyed tens of dunams of agricultural land east of Bet Hanoun.
- ◆ **Khan Younis:** The occupation forces bombarded residential areas in Al Namsawi neighborhood and Al Gharbi refugee camp wounding [15] Palestinians including five children.
- ◆ **Rafah:** The occupation forces fired heavy machineguns at residential houses in Tal Al Sultan, critically wounding one Palestinian. They also arrested three Palestinians.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Friday, October 18

To: 19.00hrs Saturday, October 19

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[17] Palestinians were injured among them [5] children, [2] in critical condition and [22] were arrested, [371] Trees were uprooted and [31] dunams were bulldozed. [17] Houses, [10] vehicles, [9] economic establishments, [1] security post, [1] institution and [2] schools were destroyed or damaged. Palestinian areas were shelled [9] & bombarded by machinegun fire [18] times.

- ◆ **Jerusalem:** The occupation forces stormed & ransacked Palestinian houses in Dahyat Al Bared, arrested five citizens and robbed their money.
- ◆ **Ramallah & Al Birah:** The occupation forces prevented peace activists from reaching Janyah, Ras Krkar & Al Mazra villages to protect Palestinian olive pickers from the attacks of Jewish settlers.
- ◆ **Nablus:** The occupation forces, backed up by Apaches, invaded, bombarded, searched and ransacked Palestinian houses in Balata refugee camp and wounded a number of Palestinians, many of them are children and elderly people and arrested three citizens. On their part, Jewish settlers opened fire at Palestinian olive pickers and peace activists and forced them to leave their grooves in the villages of Aynaboos & Aqraba at gunpoint.
- ◆ **Jenin:** The Israeli occupation intensified its punitive measures against Palestinians in Al Aghwar & Tubas areas and hindered their movement.

- ◆ **Tolkarem:** The occupation forces intensified its military presence in Baqa Shrqia & Sharwia areas, attacked students & workers and erected roadblocks.
- ◆ **Salfeet:** Under the protection of the occupation forces, Jewish settlers opened fire at Palestinian olive pickers and Peace & solidarity activists and forced them to flee their land.
- ◆ **Hebron:** The occupation forces held & attacked a number of Palestinians in the city, erected several roadblocks, stormed and ransacked Al Sheikh mosque & Zakat center and raided Al Rehia village and ransacked houses. Meanwhile, Daboya Jewish settlers attacked Palestinian schoolgirls with rocks and dirt.
- ◆ **Gaza:** The occupation forces shelled Zahra residential area causing damage, invaded Sheikh Ejleen area and closed the coastal road.
- ◆ **Khan Younis:** The occupation forces bombarded residential areas in Al Gharbi refugee camp and penetrated into Kheza area causing damage.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Saturday, October 19

To: 19.00hrs Sunday, October 20

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[25] Palestinians were injured among them [9] children and [23] were arrested. [483] Trees were uprooted and [271] dunams were bulldozed. [28] Houses, [21] vehicles, [11] economic establishments, [3] security posts, [3] institutions and [25] greenhouses were destroyed or damaged. Palestinian areas were shelled [11] & bombarded by machinegun fire [29] times.

- ◆ *Nablus:* The occupation forces intensified its siege on the city, opened fire at Palestinians in several neighborhoods and injured six citizens and arrested two. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers continued to attack Palestinian olive pickers using knives and gunfire and critically wounded four Palestinians and forced farmers to abandon their land at gunpoint.
- ◆ *Jenin:* The Israeli occupation imposed a tight blockade on Tobass village, raided Selat Al Daher area and imposed curfew, prevented students from attending schools, searched & ransacked houses, erected roadblocks, fired at Palestinian vehicles, dug up trenches and held cars, attacked divers and informed nine Palestinian families of the intention to demolish their homes.
- ◆ *Qalqilya:* The occupation forces bulldozed tens of Dunams & trees in Jayous & Izbet Salman villages and wounded two citizens, savagely beat up and injured a Palestinian boy and damaged several houses.
- ◆ *Gaza:* The occupation forces penetrated into & bombarded Al Moghraqa area, bulldozed agricultural land, wounded one citizen and bulldozed the buildings of seaports authority, a house, a barn and the water network.
- ◆ *Mid Area:* The occupation forces raided AL Birka and bulldozed land & trees.
- ◆ *Khan Younis:* The occupation forces penetrated into Al Gharbi refugee camp and bombarded houses wounding four citizens and damaging houses. They also bombarded Namsawi & AL Amal areas causing damage.

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