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

Letter dated 30 September 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 to significantly escalate their war crimes and human rights violations against Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory using all kinds of weapons, including fighter jets, combat helicopters, tanks, infantry and special units.

Practices at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces which consist of invading Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps, mass killing, destruction of houses and private and public property, destruction of Palestinian economic infrastructure and the Presidential Headquarters of the Palestinian National Authority, shooting at Palestinian civilians unjustifiably, killing and wounding civilians while moving between Palestinian towns and villages through Israeli military checkpoints and roadblocks, indiscriminate and intense shelling of Palestinian residential areas, using F-16 fighter jets, combat helicopters, gunboats, tanks, heavy machine guns and the lethal flechette shells, collective punishment measures against Palestinian civilians and denial of their basic human rights, such as the right of free movement and right to education, food, medical care and work, through imposing a total siege on the occupied Palestinian territory, extrajudicial assassinations against Palestinians, campaigns of arbitrary arrest against Palestinians and placing hundreds under administrative detention, uprooting fruit trees and bulldozing thousands of dunums of agricultural lands owned by

Palestinians, thus depriving them of their only means of subsistence, all are practices which the Israeli occupation authorities continue to perpetrate against the Palestinian civilian people in flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law and the provisions of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

On Thursday, 26 September, Israeli forces killed a baby girl, Gharam Mana, less than 1 year old. She died after exposure to tear gas, while waiting at an Israeli roadblock with her grandmother in Bab al-Zawiyya in Hebron.

Also on Thursday, 26 September, in the middle of Gaza city, an Israeli Apache attack helicopter fired two missiles at a car, killing Abd al-Rahim Hamdan (40) and Issa Barakeh (35), and wounding 40 others, among them 15 children.

On Monday, 23 September, Israeli forces killed 9 Palestinians in Gaza, among them 7 civilians and 1 child, and wounded 20 others, 2 of them critically, as Israeli forces accompanied by tanks, helicopter gunships and armoured vehicles, entered densely populated areas of Gaza city, and opened indiscriminate fire from helicopter gunships and tanks, causing large-scale destruction. Among the Palestinians killed during this operation were Walid al-Mughni (14 years) and his brother, Ihab al-Mughni (21 years), Nidal al-Sursuk (27 years), Ashraf Zuwayd (25 years), Adel al-Zeeb (32 years) and his brother, Khaled al-Zeeb (34 years), Jaber Mahmoud Kishku (45 years) and Yassin Nassar (50 years).

A 14-year-old boy from Nablus, Baha Said Naji al-Bahesh, was killed on Sunday, 22 September after being targeted by an Israeli army gunman, who in cold blood and without any reason, opened fire and shot him dead.

Abdel Salam Samren, a 10-year-old boy from Ramallah, was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers on 19 September while he was walking out of his home, on the same road where tanks were targeting other children. Upon seeing the tank, Samren tried to hide but soldiers shot him in the chest.

Since 28 September 2000 to this day, Israeli forces and settlers have killed 1,646 Palestinians, including 356 children. At least 166 Palestinians have been killed in extrajudicial executions and State-sponsored assassinations committed by Israel, including 63 Palestinian bystanders. One thousand and forty six homes have been demolished, leaving 7,844 people homeless. During that same period, more than 19,711 Palestinians have been injured, leaving over 2,000 Palestinians permanently disabled. Israel has arbitrarily detained 7,015 Palestinians, including 59 women and 330 children, who are held in detention camps which do not meet basic international standards and where they are submitted to systematic torture and ill-treatment.

Herewith enclosed for further information are memorandums issued by the Palestinian National Authority on the daily Israeli aggressions against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, for the period from Sunday, 22 to Sunday, 29 September 2002.

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Once again, we appeal to Your Excellency, and through you to the international community, to exert any pressure available within the framework of your mandate for providing international protection for Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory, for ending the perpetration of the crimes of deliberate and mass killing and other systematic and widespread violations of international humanitarian law at the hands of the Israeli occupation authorities, to call on Israel to abide by the relevant United Nations resolutions and its international commitments and to withdraw its occupation forces from all the occupied Palestinian territory.

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

(Signed): Nabil RAMLAWI

Ambassador

Permanent Observer

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

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Sunday, September 22 To: 19.00hrs Monday, September 23

- [1] Palestinian baby was killed, [45] were injured, among them [14] children, [4] critically and [52] were arrested. [570] Trees were uprooted or burned. [269] Dunams were bulldozed. [21] Houses, [26] vehicles (including two ambulances) [9] economic establishments, [1] National Security post, [2] schools, [3] institutions, [4] green houses and [1] animal farm were destroyed or damaged. [3] New military posts were erected and [2] settlement posts with [7] housing units were established. Palestinian areas were shelled [17] & bombarded by machinegun fire [33] times.
 - ◆ Jerusalem: The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinians in Salah Din & Sultan St. injuring five citizens, stormed Al Bareed & Ber Nabala areas and imposed on it and closed entrances of Al Thawri neighborhood.
 - ♦Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces continued to impose a tight siege on the President's HQ and the entire city and prevented the European envoy and four Israeli Parliamentarians from entering the city to meet president Arafat. They also held three journalists and confiscated their press licenses and stormed houses in Silwad and arrested four Palestinians.
 - ♦ Nablus: The occupation forces stormed houses in Burqa & Osreen villages and arrested [15] Palestinians while Jewish settlers took over a Palestinian building in the village of Al Liban.
 - ◆Jenin: The occupation forces invaded several villages and neighborhoods, stormed houses, took over a school and transformed it into a military post, erected two military checkpoints and arrested [15] Palestinians.

- ◆Tolkarem: The occupation forces stormed houses and arrested eight Palestinians, started to dig a trench in Faroon village and bulldozed hundreds of olive trees and a road on Palestinian lands.
- ◆Salfeet: The occupation soldiers imposed curfew in the villages of Rair Istya & Kofel Hareth and fired gas bombs at school students causing suffocation to many.
- ♦ Hebron: The infant Rawan Murad Hurezan died when the occupation troops prevented her from reaching the hospital. The occupation forces imposed curfew on the Old City and the city center, attacked Palestinians and arrested five citizens. They also built two settlement posts.
- ◆Bethlehem: The occupation forces stormed in a Palestinian hose and arrested three family members, closed Wadi Al Nar and continued to prevent farmers from reaching their fields.
- ♦ Gaza; The occupation forces into Palestinian and bulldozed several dunams of land.
- ♦ Mid Area: The occupation forces opened fire at a group of Palestinian children injuring five, among them one in critical condition.
- ♦ Khan Younis: The occupation forces bombarded residential areas in Al Amal neighborhood injuring two children, closed Salah Den road and tightened its punitive measures against Palestinians at Al Toffah crossing. They also bulldozed vast areas of Palestinian agricultural land in Al Sater Al Gharbi.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Monday, September 23 To: 19.00hrs Tuesday, September 24

- [9] Palestinians were killed, [101] were injured, among them [37] children, [9] critically [3] of them children and [49] were arrested. [1350] Trees were uprooted or burned. [2600] Dunams were bulldozed. [55] Houses, [70] vehicles (including three ambulances) [29] economic establishments, [4] National Security post, [3] schools, [3] institutions, [2] mosques and [3] clinical centers were destroyed or damaged. [7] New settlement housing units were erected and. Palestinian areas were shelled [33] & bombarded by machinegun fire [61] times.
 - ♦ Jerusalem: The occupation forces invaded Al Ram and Beit Hanina, stormed institutions, houses and commercial stores, ransacking properties and arresting 3 Palestinians, among them one girl.
 - ♦ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation force continued to impose a tight siege on the President's HQ and the entire city for the sixth consecutive day. They also continued bulldozing in the Mukata'a. Meanwhile, the occupation forces opened machinegun fire at the Palestinian demonstrators in support of Mr. president, several Palestinian were injured and one citizen was arrested in Ain Yabroud village.
 - ♦ Nablus: The occupation forces continued to impose tight curfew on the city and its refugee camps. Meanwhile, the occupation forces, under cover of heavy fire, stormed Beit Wazan village and demolished a house. They also detained members of a whole family in a single room.
 - ♦ Qalqilya: The occupation forces started bulldozing vast area in Ezba Salman west of the city which amounted to more than [2600] dunams.

- ♦ Hebron: The occupation forces stormed residential houses in Sheikh and Jaabary suburbs, destroyed properties and arrested tens of people, among them a whole family members. They also invaded Dora town, imposed curfew, opened rubbercoated steel bullets and tear gas bombs at a school, injuring several students, among them five children. A one-year-old child was injured. In addition, Houses in the vicinity and an electricity transformer were damaged. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers attacked and beat residents in the old city injuring several Palestinians.
- ♦ Bethlehem: The occupation forces also besieged and threatened to blew up Taqou Secondary School and forced students to leave it.
- ♦ Gaza: The occupation forces, backed up by tanks and helicopters, invaded Zeitoon, Al Mansooura And Shajaiya suburbs, opened heavy fire and tank bombardments at residential houses, killing [9] Palestinians and injuring more than [52], [6] critically. They imposed curfew and bombarded with several tank shells a Palestinian's residential house, bulldozed 3 other houses and metal workshops. They also damaged water wells, commercial stores and private and public properties.
- ♦ North Gaza: Under cover of heavy fire, the occupation forces invaded the Bedouin and Izbet Beit Hanoun villages, opened fire at residential houses, damaging private and public properties.
- ♦ Khan Yunis: The occupation forces opened heavy machinegun fire at residential houses in Al Amal suburb, critically injuring a 19-year-old Palestinian. They also erected many mobile houses east of Abasan
- ♦ Rafah: The occupation forces positioned in Tel Zoroub and Al Bawaba, opened heavy machinegun fire at the Palestinians' residential houses in Tel Sultan and Rafah refugee camp, injuring an 11-year-old boy critically. They also stormed houses and arrested three Palestinians.

<u>The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People</u> From: 19.00hrs Tuesday, September 24 - To: 19.00hrs Wednesday, September 25

- [63] Palestinians were injured, among them [23] children, [7] critically [3] of them children and [37] were arrested. [1415] Trees were uprooted or burned. [161] Dunams were bulldozed. [51] Houses, [21] vehicles, [7] economic establishments, [1] National Security post, [1] school, [3] institutions and [1] hospital were destroyed or damaged. [3] New settlement housing units were erected and [14housing units were introduced. Palestinian areas were shelled [17] & bombarded by machinegun fire [34] times.
 - ♦ Jerusalem: The occupation forces turned the entire city into a military camp and searched Palestinian houses and humiliated citizens.
 - ♦ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation force continued to impose a tight siege on the President's HQ and the entire city for the seventh consecutive day. They also arrested the head of a court, stormed Bet Rima village and arrested five citizens and stormed houses in Bitonya and arrested one Palestinian.
 - ♦ *Nablus:* The occupation forces arrested French peace activists and continued to impose curfew on the city.
 - ♦ Jenin: The occupation forces fired at Palestinian houses injuring one citizen.
 - ♦ *Tolkarem*: The occupation forces started to bulldoze hundreds of olive trees in Kofor Jamal village and stormed houses and arrested three Palestinians.
 - ♦ *Qalqilya*: The occupation forces stormed the UN hospital and kidnapped three citizens and opened fire at houses injuring one citizen.
 - ♦ *Hebron:* The occupation forces demolished three family houses and caused damage to many neighboring ones and continued to detain and question citizens.
 - ♦ Bethlehem: The occupation forces stationed in the school of Takoo' and prevented students from attending classes and bulldozed tens of Dunams of agricultural land in Rass Al Wad area.
 - ♦ Gaza: The occupation forces penetrated into Palestinian area, near Nitsarem settlement and bulldozed three houses, one store, land and trees.
 - ♦ North Gaza: The occupation forces fired bullets and gas bombs at school children injuring fifteen of them, penetrated in Om Nsser village and opened fire at houses causing damage.
 - ♦ *Mid Area*: The occupation opened fire at school children's demonstration injuring seventeen of them and bulldozed a security post.
 - ♦ Rafah: The occupation forces bulldozed trees near the border and damaged thirty houses.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Wednesday, September 25 To: 19.00hrs Thursday, September 26

- [6] Palestinians were killed, including [3] assassinated. [70] Were injured among them [33] children, [11] critically [6] of them children and [32] were arrested. [285] Trees were uprooted or burned. [120] Dunams were bulldozed. [59] Houses, [29] vehicles (including one ambulance), [28] economic establishments, [1] National Security post were destroyed or damaged. Palestinian areas were shelled [23] & bombarded by machinegun fire [37] times.
- ◆ Jerusalem: The occupation forces arrested a 50-year-old Palestinian patient at Ramot military checkpoint while heading to hospital. The occupation forces fired bullets and tear canisters at Palestinians Al Sheikh Saed area, wounding many of them.
- ◆ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces continued to impose strict siege on the Presidential HQ for the eighth consecutive day and to impose curfew in the two cities and refugee camp. And the occupation soldiers invaded the village of Kharabtha, searched several houses and arrested two Palestinians.
- ◆ Nablus: The occupation forces arrested one Palestinian and Jewish settlers attacked and damaged an ambulance. The siege and the curfew continued to be imposed in the city.
- ◆ Jenin: The occupation forces shot and killed a 54-year-old Palestinian in his house, when the occupation soldiers opened fire at residential houses. The occupation troops also invaded Palestinian houses and arrested six Palestinians in the city. They also invaded several nearby villages, bulldozed agricultural land, uprooted tens of olive trees and erected a new military point.

- ♦ Tolkarem: The occupation forces assassinated a Palestinian citizen in the village of Kofor Al Labad, by air-surface missile launched by Apaches, prevented ambulances from reaching the spot, blew up his house, arrested his father and imposed curfew in the village. They also invaded Palestinian houses in three villages and arrested nine Palestinians.
- ♦ Qalqilya: The occupation forces imposed curfew in Izbet Salman village and prevented foreign delegations from reaching the village.
- ♦ Hebron: A 14-month-old Palestinian baby died by tear gas fired by the occupation soldiers re-imposing a curfew in a crowded Palestinian market area. Seven others were wounded. Palestinian merchants were forced to close down their shops.
- ♦ Gaza: Two Palestinians were assassinated when Israeli Apache helicopters fired missiles at two vehicles travelling in Gaza, [15] of the [45] people wounded were children and [6] critical conditions. Several houses in the vicinity were damaged.
- ♦ North Gaza: The occupation forces killed a 22-year-old Palestinian with salvoes of bullets fired at him. The occupation forces blew up a Palestinian residential house, took over a D.C.O. position in Eretz, forced them to leave, confiscated computers and opened fire at residential houses in Beit Hanoun. The occupation forces also bulldozed agricultural land and uprooted citrus trees there.
- ♦ Mid Areu: The occupation forces impeded travel movement at Al Matahin junction, searched cars and detained people under sun for several hours.
- ◆ Khan Yunis: The occupation forces erected three new military posts along the Green Line, eastern of Abasan and Kissufim, surrounding them with dirt mounds and mobile houses.
- ◆ Rafah: The occupation forces built up a military control tower near Rafah crossing and blew up a Palestinian residential house.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Thursday, September 26 To: 19.00hrs Friday, September 27

- [1] Palestinians was killed, [36] were injured among them [11] children, [5] critically [2] of them children and [19] were arrested. [290] Trees were uprooted or burned. [175] Dunams were bulldozed. [35] Houses, [21] vehicles (including one ambulance), [18] economic establishments, [2] National Security posts, [1] mosque, [2] schools, [3] water wells, [1] green house and [1] animal farm were destroyed or damaged. [2] Military posts were erected and [1] settlement road was built. Palestinian areas were shelled [15] & bombarded by machinegun fire [32] times.
 - ♦ Jerusalem: The occupation forces banned the entrance of Palestinians to the Old City for Friday prayers and arrested one Palestinian. They also closed the main road of Sheikh Sa'd St with trenches.
 - ♦ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces continue to impose strict siege on the Presidential HQ and impose curfew in the two cities and refugee camp. The occupation soldiers also prevented peace activist from reaching the compound. Meantime, three Palestinians were arrested when the occupation forces stormed their houses north of the city of Ramallah.
 - ♦ *Nablus*: The occupation forces invaded several houses in the city where the curfew continues to be imposed. They also invaded Palestinian houses in the village of Oarta and imposed curfew.
 - ♦ *Jenin:* The occupation forces invaded, searched and ransacked Palestinian houses, stores and national institutions in the center of the city and in Al Zahra neighborhood.

- ♦ Salfeet: The occupation forces invaded and ransacked Palestinian houses in the village of Arour and arrested two Palestinians.
- ♦ *Hebron*: The occupation forces shot and killed a 21-year-old Palestinian and continue to impose curfew in the center of the city, and occupation special troops arrested four Palestinians in AL Casaba neighborhood.
- ♦ Bethlehem: The occupation forces started the work for a new settlement road to connect east of the city with the settlement of Abu Ghonem
- ♦ Jericho: The occupation forces arrested one Palestinian at Al Karama crossing upon his return from Jordan.
- ♦ Gaza: The occupation forces stormed Palestinian areas east of the city and opened fire at Palestinian children wounding four, one critically.
- ♦ North Gaza: The occupation forces invaded Palestinian areas in Bet Hanoun and Bet Lahya, opened fire at residential areas, stationed near Al Nada buildings and Hamoudah gas station and bulldozed [150] dunams of agricultural land, two houses and three water wells in Abu Safya area.
- ♦ Mid Area: The occupation forces, covered by Apaches and tanks, invaded Palestinian areas in Der Al Balah, bombarded residential areas wounding six Palestinians, some critically, imposed curfew in the city, invaded tens of houses and arrested five Palestinians. They also destroyed the electricity generator.
- ♦ Khan Yunis: The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinians and bombarded residential areas in several neighborhoods critically wounding Mohammed Abu Tiour [12] and a 20-year-old girl and causing severe damage to several houses.
- ♦ Rafah: The occupation forces bombarded from their positions in Tal Zourob Palestinian houses causing severe damage.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Friday, September 27 To: 19.00hrs Saturday, September 28

- [2] Palestinians were killed, [43] were injured among them [19] children, [6] of them critically and [24] were arrested. [80] Trees were uprooted or burned. [15] Dunams were bulldozed. [18] Houses, [11] vehicles, [5] economic establishments, [2] National Security posts, [1] school and [1] kindergarten were destroyed or damaged. [1] Military post was erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [15] & bombarded by machinegun fire [35] times.
 - ♦ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces continue to impose strict siege on the Presidential HQ and impose curfew in the two cities and refugee camp. They also erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of Ber Zeit, arrested two citizens and prevented students from reaching the university.
 - ♦ Nablus: The occupation forces opened fire at a rehabilitation center, a kindergarten and at school children causing suffocation to many children and damaging the institutions. They also fired at a vehicle injuring two children.
 - ♦ *Jenin:* The occupation forces bombarded the city, wounded two Palestinians and arrested three others.
 - ◆ Qalqilya: The occupation forces invaded the city and imposed a tight siege.
 - ♦ *Hebron:* The occupation forces stormed, ransacked & searched Doura Police station and broke into houses in the old city and arrested two Palestinians. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers attacked Palestinians and their houses and property in the Old City.
 - ♦ Bethlehem: The occupation forces imposed curfew on the village of Hossan.

- ♦ Gaza: The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinians at Al Montar area injuring two citizens.
- ♦ North Gaza: The occupation forces opened fire at a peaceful demonstration in Bet Hanoun and Al Nada buildings injuring eight students and causing suffocation to many others and arrested a Palestine TV reporter. They also penetrated in Um Al Nasser village and bulldozed vast areas of land.
- ♦ Mid Area: The occupation forces opened fire at a peaceful demonstration and killed Mohammed Mossaed Abu Ajwa (17) and injured seven youths.
- ♦ Khan Yunis: The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian residential areas inuring three children and causing damage.
- ♦ Rafah: The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses and killed Sami Attallh Abdela'al (26) and damaged property.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Saturday, September 28 To: 19.00hrs Sunday, September 29

- [2] Palestinians were killed one of them assassinated, [42] were injured among them [17] children, [5] of them critically and [16] were arrested. [489] Trees were uprooted or burned. [75] Dunams were bulldozed and [5400] were confiscated. [21] Houses, [18] vehicles, [8] economic establishments, [1] hospital, [2] schools, [2] institutions and [5] greenhouses were destroyed or damaged. [5] Military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [18] & bombarded by machinegun fire [35] times.
 - ♦ Jerusalem: The occupation forces attacked and arrested a school student.
 - ♦ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces fired gas bombs at the Delivery & Medical wards in Al Reaea hospital causing suffocation to many newborns and staff, opened fire & gas bombs at a peaceful demonstration in Al Irssal area wounding nine citizens and fired gas bombs at two elementary schools causing suffocation to a number of students.
 - ◆ Jenin: The occupation forces bombarded houses wounding seven Palestinians and penetrated into Wadi Burqeen area and closed Burqeen Jenin road.
 - ◆ Tolkarem: The occupation forces assassinated Khder Taleb Deab (25), stormed villages, ransacked houses and prevented farmers from reaching their fields.
 - ◆ Qalqilya: The occupation forces bombarded houses in the city causing damage. They also informed the residents of the following villages of the confiscation of [5000] Dunams of their land: Assleh, Azzoun, Habla, Kofor Tholoth, Nabi Ilyass,

Rass Attea, Jalood, Daba & Rass Tera in addition to the annexation of Daba & Rass Tera villages to the Security fence and the demolition of more than [400] Dunams in building the Security fence.

- ♦ *Hebron:* The occupation forces stormed, ransacked & searched houses in Doura and arrested one Palestinian.
- ♦ Gaza: Three Palestinian children were injured when a suspicious object left by the occupation forces exploded.
- ♦ North Gaza: The occupation forces penetrated into Bet Hanoun, Um Al Nasser and Al Nada buildings and opened fire at Palestinians injuring three youths and causing suffocation to many others. They also bulldozed [50] Dunams of land, tens of trees & greenhouses and erected three military posts.
- ♦ Mid Area: The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian houses injuring one citizen and bulldozed tens of Dunams of land in Wadi Al Salqa.
- ♦ Khan Yunis: Ijmean Hamad Abu Younis (55) died of a heart attack when the occupation forces prevented him from crossing Abu Holi military checkpoint and the occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses injuring eight citizens and causing severe damage to Palestinian property. They also shelled the office of the Arab Front For the liberation of Palestine in an assassination attempt.
- ♦ Rafah: The occupation forces penetrated near the Airport and stationed in Abu Shalouf area.