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

Security Council
Seventy-seventh year

Identical letters dated 14 April 2022 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

I am compelled to write, just two days since my previous letter, as Palestinian civilians continue to be killed by Israeli occupation forces rampaging through Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and once again spilling the blood of innocents during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan, and as extremist, radical Israeli settlers escalate their provocations, threatening to ignite a destructive religious war.

Ignoring the appeals for calm and trampling on all legal and moral norms, Israel carries on with its deadly policies during these sensitive days of the convergence of the Muslim, Christian and Jewish holidays. As casualties tragically mount, we call again for urgent international action to stop the bloodletting and defuse this extremely volatile situation, which threatens international peace and security. Serious collective action is crucial for protecting civilian lives and averting further destabilization by the occupying Power and its warmongering military and settlers, who are instigating an explosion.

In the last 24 hours, six Palestinians, including children, have been murdered by Israeli occupation forces. These killings have been carried out on the direct instructions of the Israeli Prime Minister, who has green-lighted these violent military assaults on the occupied population in absolute disregard for human life. The rising number of casualties has compelled the Palestine Red Crescent Society to declare a state of emergency.

Today, Israeli occupation forces again raided the Janin area, killing two young Palestinian men, Shas Kamamji and Mustafa Abu-Arub, and wounding six other Palestinians, two of whom are in critical condition. Also today, a 45-year-old Palestinian man, Fawwaz Hamayel, a father of three children, died from wounds sustained yesterday in yet another Israeli assault on the village of Beita.

On the morning of Wednesday, 13 April, 34-year-old Mohammed Hassan Assaf was shot in the chest and killed by Israeli occupation forces as he was taking his three young nephews to school. Violent raids by occupying forces and settlers in Nablus



and the surrounding areas that day led to the killing of Assaf and injury of 31 other Palestinians, including one person deliberately run over by an Israeli military vehicle. Assaf, who served as a human rights lawyer on a Palestinian commission peacefully working against Israel's illegal apartheid wall, lived his short life in the Kafr Laqif village near Nablus and leaves behind a devastated family.

Also, yesterday, another Palestinian child was killed near Bethlehem in the village of Husan. Qusay Mohammed Hamamrah, aged 14, was murdered in cold blood by Israeli occupation forces, which fired more than 10 shots at the boy and prevented aid from reaching him, leaving him to bleed to death on the street and then abducting his body for hours, further traumatizing his family. Qusay is the fourth Palestinian to be killed by Israeli occupation forces in Husan in less than a month, his family now among the many painfully mourning during this month of Ramadan.

Israeli raids in Silwad village near Ramallah on Wednesday evening also caused further casualties. Savagely assaulting unarmed Palestinians civilians, Israeli occupation forces murdered a young Palestinian man, Omar Mohammed Alyan, aged 20, and injured several others, bringing trauma and grief to the village.

Also, on Tuesday, 12 April, a Palestinian worker from Al-Khalil (Hebron), Abdullah Srour, was shot and killed at point-blank range by Israeli police in the city of Asqalan. Abdullah worked at a construction site, seeking to earn a livelihood to support his family but fated never to return to them as a result of Israel's cruel and racist shoot-to-kill policy against Palestinians. Witnesses said Abdullah did not pose any threat and that the Israeli police were acting in a very violent way.

Today, as Israeli occupation forces continue the aggressive round-up of Palestinians, we must also again draw attention to Israel's inhumane detention of Palestinian children and youth. In the month of March alone, Israeli occupation forces detained 539 Palestinians, among them 62 children and 19 women, and held 195 Palestinians under administrative detention without any charge. Since the start of 2022, 1,100 Palestinians have been detained, many from occupied East Jerusalem.

Currently, 160 Palestinian children are imprisoned by Israel. Among them is Ahmad Manasra, who was only 13 years old when he was imprisoned and has remained captive for seven years now – a third of his life – despite his known mental health condition. Doctors Without Borders has confirmed that Ahmad suffers from schizophrenia, which is being exacerbated by the solitary confinement and repeated physical and psychological torture he is enduring, cruelties that no child should face. We call for Ahmad's freedom and that of all the Palestinian children, women and men being held under this criminal, apartheid occupation.

Lastly, but of utmost seriousness, we must raise the alarm about ongoing provocations and incitement by extremist Jewish settlers intent on igniting a religious war in Jerusalem. This includes threats to carry out religious sacrificial rituals at the Haram al-Sharif/Aqsa Mosque during the Jewish holiday of Passover, as the so-called "Temple Mount Faithful Movement" is reportedly offering "a cash reward" to anyone who performs a sacrifice, such as slaughtering an animal, at this holy site.

We warn of the dangers of such a provocative act and demand that Israel, the occupying Power, ensure full respect for the historic and legal status quo at the Haram al-Sharif/Aqsa Mosque and for the authority of the Islamic Waqf and custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Upholding the status quo at this most sensitive holy site during Ramadan and at all times, as well at all other holy sites in Jerusalem, including its Churches and particularly during these days when the Christian faithful are coming to the City to celebrate Easter, is vital for ensuring the freedom of worship and safety of all worshippers and averting the outbreak of a religious conflagration with grave consequences.

Once again, we urge the international community to uphold its responsibilities in accordance with international law, including the relevant United Nations resolutions, and to bring a halt to Israel's relentless crimes and provocations against the Palestinian people. We call on the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to uphold their specific obligations under common article 1 to respect and ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances and, under article 146, to prosecute persons alleged to have committed grave breaches. Serious action, including by the Security Council, is needed to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people and effective accountability to bring pressure to bear on the Israeli occupation in order to bring it to its long-overdue end. For as long as this illegal occupation and apartheid regime exist, there will never be peace.

We will not relent in our efforts to bring justice to the Palestinian people and ensure the realization of their inalienable human rights, including to live as a free people in their homeland. We call on all peace- and freedom-loving nations of the world to join our just struggle and to act forthwith to hold Israel fully accountable for all of the human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity it is perpetrating against our people.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 748 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 12 April 2022 ([A/ES-10/895-S/2022/312](#)) 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