



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
9 June 2022

Original: English

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-seventh year

Identical letters dated 9 June 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

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to destroy Palestinian homes and properties and to forcibly displace Palestinian families, in grave breach of international law. More than a thousand Palestinian children, women and men are at imminent risk of forced displacement, with thousands more living under this threat as Israel persists with its colonization of our land through settlement and its policy of apartheid against our people.

The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits collective punishment, pillage and reprisals against protected persons and their property (article 33); prohibits individual or mass forcible transfers and the transfer of parts of the occupying Power's civilian population into the territory it occupies (article 49); and states that extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly, constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law, or war crimes, giving rise to the obligation to impose penal sanctions pursuant to its article 146. However, Israel, the occupying Power, persists in its unlawful, inhumane and destructive policies in furtherance of its illegal colonial designs, laying waste to international law, the contiguity and integrity of Palestinian land and the viability of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

In a brazen show of impunity, Israel continues to do so, moreover in blatant contempt of the repeated calls by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, as well as the International Court of Justice and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to immediately and completely cease all such illegal policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The prolonged failure of the international community to uphold international law and implement the relevant resolutions in this regard have undoubtedly emboldened such flagrant Israeli impunity.

As the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, Navanethem



Pillay, stated on 7 June 2022, when the Commission issued its first report to the Human Rights Council: “It is this lack of implementation coupled with a sense of impunity, clear evidence that Israel has no intention of ending the occupation, and the persistent discrimination against Palestinians that lies at the heart of the systematic recurrence of violations in both the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.”

The international community has an opportunity before it to right these wrongs, to stand on principle and to uphold international law and apply it – without fear, favouritism or double standards – to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. To do so, it must find the courage to act without delay to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for the violations it has perpetrated and is perpetrating, and to deter it from the violations that it has declared it will continue to perpetrate.

In this regard, we must again draw attention to the plight of 12 communities in Masafer Yatta in the hills south of Al-Khalil (Hebron) that are facing the nightmare of imminent forced displacement. If the occupying Power is not halted, approximately 1200 Palestinians, the majority children and women, will be dispossessed and rendered homeless, forced from the land on which they have lived for generations. The occupying Power is trying to forcibly expel them from their homes and lands under the pretext of turning the area into a so-called “firing zone” for military training. This is as offensive as it is illegal: attempting to alter the demography of an area by ethnically cleansing its indigenous population in order to seize the land for the illegal occupant to train its soldiers, who are violently oppressing and abusing the indigenous population in order to further colonize and annex this land.

Such actions are tantamount to war crimes and must be unequivocally condemned. Accountability measures are imperative to bring a halt to these crimes and ensure compliance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

In this regard, we must call attention to a similar issue: the illegal plans of Israel to demolish a building in the Wadi Qaddum neighbourhood of Silwan in occupied East Jerusalem. As reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the building, which is home to 74 Palestinians (32 adults and 42 children) is at imminent risk of demolition.

The families have received demolition orders from the occupation authorities demanding that they evacuate their homes within days, before the building is demolished. Two of the families are Palestine refugee families and for two others, this would be the second displacement in two years – during a global pandemic no less. They would join the list of families displaced as a result of the demolition or seizure by Israel of 300 Palestinian homes and properties in 2022 alone. Yet again, the pretext for the demolition is the lack of an occupation-issued building permit, which everyone knows is nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain and which is required for them to build homes and necessary infrastructure in their own land.

Such offensive pretexts must be rejected and the international community must demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all such measures against Palestinian inhabitants of occupied East Jerusalem and elsewhere throughout Occupied Palestine. We recall once again: Israel is not the sovereign in any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and has no right whatsoever to impose its control and laws on our people and land. Such sovereignty rests only in the Palestinian people and the State of Palestine, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

It is past time for the international community to act, swiftly, collectively and responsibly, to uphold international law and enact the countless international resolutions, decisions and recommendations that, regrettably, remain unimplemented to this day. Only through such efforts will it be possible to halt the endless cycle of violence and the illegal Israeli colonial occupation and apartheid regime, protect civilian lives and enable the Palestinian people to realize the freedom, rights and dignity that they have been unjustly denied for so long: over 74 years since the Nakba, and over 55 years now since the start of the Israeli occupation in 1967.

We urge the international community, including the Security Council, to act now, to stand against impunity and for the freedom, equality and rights of all peoples, including the people of Palestine. As a commissioner on the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, Miloon Kothari, emphasized, “It is only with the ending of occupation that the world can begin to reverse historical injustices and move towards self-determination of the Palestinian peoples.”

The present letter is in follow-up to our 756 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 6 June 2022 ([A/ES-10/903-S/2022/452](#)) 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 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) **Riyad Mansour**
Minister
Permanent Observer