



# General Assembly Security Council

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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 29 July 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**

Following yet another Security Council session on the Palestine question without any action for accountability, I regret to report that Israel, the occupying Power, is pressing on, and even intensifying, its illegal campaign of colonizing Palestinian land, ethnically cleansing the land of its indigenous population, constructing hundreds more settlement units and tormenting the Palestinian people, including through continued violent attacks by Israeli occupying forces, including settlers, on civilians, including children.

It is widely recognized by the international community that the absence of accountability for the grave breaches being systematically perpetrated is emboldening the impunity of Israel's political and military officials and its settler gangs and militias. Confident that they have not, as of yet, been held responsible for their crimes, they are carrying on with their inhumanity and insanity against the Palestinian civilian population.

It should not be lost on the Security Council that, just as it was preparing to convene its quarterly open debate on Palestine, and no sooner than the American President had departed the region, Israel resumed advancing plans for the construction of approximately 2,000 more illegal settlement units in Occupied Palestine, as reported by the Israeli organization Peace Now, among others. This latest illegal scheme concentrates on further colonizing the area between Jabal Abu Ghneim in occupied East Jerusalem and Bethlehem to the south, to which thousands more Israeli settlers will be illegally transferred as Israel accelerates its attempts to disconnect the holy cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, to undermine the contiguity of Palestinian land and the development and viability of Palestinian communities, and to severely diminish the Palestinian presence.

At the same time, illegal settler gangs and militias continue to run rampant, attacking Palestinian civilians, including through repeated assaults on farmers and shepherds, destroying properties and attempting to seize more land to establish more



illegal so-called settlement outposts and displace our people. We reiterate the absolute illegality of any colonization of our land, whether through the confiscation of land or through the construction of settlements, outposts, the wall, Israeli-only bypass roads or any other infrastructure aimed at serving and benefiting Israel's illegal occupation and annexation of our land, and equally the illegality of all attempts to forcibly displace and transfer Palestinian civilians. These actions constitute grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, i.e. war crimes. The occupying Power must be held fully responsible for all manifestations of its illegal colonial settlement enterprise in our land, including the criminal activities and terror of its settlers.

Here we draw attention once again to the crisis being faced by 1,200 Palestinians in Masafer Yatta as Israel persists in its campaign to ethnically cleanse hundreds of families from south of Al-Khalil (Hebron) in order to establish a military training zone for the occupying army on our land. As part of this illegal campaign, Israeli occupying forces destroyed, on 25 July, a home in the Umm Qassa community, forcibly displacing a family of 10 people.

As reported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in just a two-week period, from 28 June to 18 July, Israeli occupying forces destroyed, or forced Palestinians to demolish, at least 51 structures in occupied East Jerusalem and elsewhere in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including 4 structures that had been provided through humanitarian aid. This has resulted in the forced displacement and homelessness of 40 people, among them 21 children, and affected the livelihoods of another 500 people, causing loss and hardship for so many families.

The daily violence of this illegal colonial occupation also continues to destroy Palestinian lives. Today, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed another Palestinian youth in Al-Mughayyir, near Ramallah. Amjad Abu Alia, age 16, was shot directly in the chest by heavily armed Israeli soldiers. Amjad is the seventeenth Palestinian child to be killed by Israel in 2022. Another two Palestinian youths were killed by Israeli occupying forces in a violent military raid on the Al-Yasmina neighbourhood in the Old City of Nablus. Mohammed Bashar Azizi, age 25, and Abdelrahman Jamal Soboh, age 28, were killed by Israeli live fire, leaving their families devastated and mourning. The ferocity of the Israeli occupying forces attack in this civilian neighbourhood injured 10 other Palestinians, one critically after being shot in the head.

These killings were preceded by the killing, on 6 July, of a young Palestinian man, Rafiq Riyad Ghannam, age 20, in an Israeli occupying forces raid on the town of Jaba', near Jenin. Rafiq was in the yard of his home at the time of the raid and was directly shot at by Israeli occupying forces – literally executed – and then left to bleed on the ground without first aid. His body was then seized and withheld by the Israeli occupying forces and only returned to his family for burial after 20 days. In addition, on 3 July, an 18-year-old Palestinian youth, Kamel Abdullah Alawneh, died of wounds sustained from Israeli live fire during another raid on Jaba'. On 22 July, Israeli occupying forces also shot two Palestinians at a military checkpoint near Al-Khalil as they tried to reach their jobs, injuring them and depriving them of their livelihoods. In addition, today, Israeli occupying forces shot and wounded three young Palestinian men in a car near the Huwara military checkpoint by Nablus, resulting in their hospitalization.

In all such incidents, Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition at unarmed, defenceless Palestinian civilians, including children, believing that they would never be punished for their crimes against our people, no matter how egregious. We call again for accountability for all of these crimes.

Further in this regard, in Gaza, over 2 million Palestinians continue to suffer the wrath of Israel's inhumane, illegal 15-year blockade, which only continues to deepen poverty, hunger, isolation and insecurity. Livelihoods and lives continue to be

destroyed as Israeli occupying forces continue to harass, intimidate and fire at Palestinian fishermen and to launch artillery strikes targeting agricultural lands. Moreover, children continue to suffer inordinately as Israel, further tightening its control, continues to deny them and their families permits to leave Gaza for life-saving medical treatment, including for cancer. Physicians for Human Rights recently reported that at least one third of requests for medical care for children had been rejected in the past year, while the remaining applications for permits had been delayed by the occupier. In addition, children approved for treatment continue to be separated from their parents, most of whom are not granted permits to travel with their sick children, traumatizing them and gravely affecting both their physical and psychological well-being.

As stressed by many of the countries that addressed the recent Security Council open debate, the above such acts of domination, oppression and colonization constitute gross human rights violations, including violation of self-determination, freedom and life, grave breaches of international humanitarian law and apartheid. These acts are being perpetrated deliberately and systematically, with clear intent to dispossess, displace and denigrate the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held fully accountable for all of these crimes.

We thus reiterate our calls to the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act now to uphold international law to bring a halt to such impunity and to forge a path for a political horizon towards ending this occupation, ending this injustice, achieving the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and establishing the peace and security that our people and region desperately seek and need.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 759 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 1 July 2022 ([A/ES-10/906-S/2022/531](#)), 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