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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 17 August 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 its brazen military aggression against the over 2 million Palestinians whom it is besieging in the Gaza Strip and in the absence of any measures of accountability for its crimes, Israel, the occupying Power, is pressing on with its military raids and assaults, killing and injuring more Palestinians, including children, and further terrorizing and traumatizing the population under its illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

On 9 August, just a day after the Security Council convened to address Israel's assault on Gaza, Israeli occupying forces launched a military raid on the city of Nablus. Israeli soldiers executed three Palestinians, including a child, in the violent dawn attack – Ibrahim al-Nablusi, aged 19, Hussein Jamal Taha, aged 16, and Islam Sabbouh, aged 32 – and 60 other Palestinians were injured, 4 of whom are in critical condition. Also on 9 August, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian boy, Mo'men Yassin Jaber, aged 17, in Al-Khalil (Hebron), piercing his heart with an explosive round of ammunition. Two other youths were injured in the Israeli occupying forces attack.

On 12 August, another Palestinian youth, Anas Khaled Inshashi, aged 22, died of wounds that he sustained during Israeli air strikes on Khan Yunis in Gaza. His death brings the total number of casualties from that barbaric aggression to 49 Palestinians killed, among them 17 children and 4 women, and 360 injured, many of whom were critically wounded and remain hospitalized in Gaza, where the health system is severely depleted owing to Israel's illegal 15-year blockade that has deprived the entire population and eroded civilian infrastructure.

On 15 August, a Palestinian youth, Mohammed Ibrahim Shaham, aged 21, was executed in cold blood in front of his family. In a raid on the Kafr Aqab neighbourhood north of occupied East Jerusalem, Israeli occupying forces attacked the Shaham family's home, blowing up the front door and shooting Mohammed in the head. As his father cried out at the execution of his son, one of the soldiers declared that they had entered "the wrong house" and shot by mistake, yet another reflection



of Israel's shoot-to-kill policy against Palestinians. The family was then taken from their home and tied up in a neighbour's apartment. Mohammed was left on the floor bleeding for 40 minutes before his body was seized and taken by Israeli occupying forces. Mohammed, who had received a diploma in air conditioning and refrigeration, was helping to support his family and five siblings, three of whom are blind, with his death leaving his family devastated and destitute.

Relentlessly intensifying its excruciating oppression of the civilian population, Israel also continues to detain and imprison Palestinians. Over 4,550 Palestinians are being held captive at present. In July alone, Israel detained 375 Palestinians, including 28 children and 2 women, and issued 191 administrative detention orders, 126 of which were renewals of ongoing administrative detentions without charge or trial, including for the mentally disabled youth, Ahmed Manasara, aged 20, who has been held captive by Israel since the age of 13 despite his critical mental and health conditions. Also among the detainees is Khalil Awawdeh, aged 40, who has been on hunger strike for 154 days in protest at his administrative detention by Israel without charge or trial. Khalil's life is in serious jeopardy as the occupying Power persists with its cruel and unlawful detention.

The highest number of detainees have been from occupied East Jerusalem – 128 Palestinians in July alone. Among them is the Palestinian Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, who has been repeatedly harassed and intimidated and has been detained by Israel at least 35 times.

Another Jerusalemite who has been repeatedly detained by Israel without charge or trial is the Palestinian-French citizen and lawyer and human rights defender, Salah Hammouri. The following are quotes from a letter written by Salah from Ofer prison in July before being transferred to "collective confinement" in Hadarim prison. Reflecting on the sheer inhumanity, pervasive cruelty and suffocating control of this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime, Salah wrote, *inter alia*:

This occupation does not see us, or treat us, as human beings with the right to live as free people do. Instead, it does all it can to asphyxiate the pseudo life we Palestinians live outside the walls of the prison. We must snatch small moments of life and joy between each detainment, whilst somehow coming to fear the short-lived joy and stability in our lives. Afraid of the next shock that will hit us... What I loathe most is the condition of waiting, one which is magnified inside prison... If I hate the condition of waiting so much – while only a few kilometers from my homeland, my freedom, and my city, Jerusalem – then what will waiting look like if I am to agree to be exiled from my home?

This punishing, inhumane reality is lived every single day by the millions of Palestinians whose lives are being destroyed by Israel's unrelenting aggression and the illegal policies and practices by which it is imposing its illegal occupation, including its insidious colonization of our land and ethnic cleansing of our people.

In this regard, we must again draw attention to Israel's continued forced transfer campaign in strategic parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as it attempts not only to entrench its illegal colonial occupation but also to advance its illegal annexation plans. The communities in Masafer Yatta, south of Al-Khalil, remain under threat as Israel presses on with measures to forcibly displace the population from the area in order to clear it to establish a military training area for the occupying army. The cruelty of such naked aggression against this vulnerable population of 1,200 children, women and men and the destruction of their herding livelihoods has been underscored by the humanitarian, human rights and diplomatic communities in Palestine, but to no avail, as their plight continues to be ignored by the Security Council and other bodies, including the International Criminal Court, which bear distinct responsibility for ensuring accountability for such crimes and bringing them to a halt.

Similarly, on 10 August, the occupying Power cancelled the injunction order halting the demolition of the Ein Samiya school, which has been repeatedly attacked by Israeli occupying forces and settlers with the aim of forcing this community from the land. This donor-funded school serves 17 children, who would otherwise be unable to access education. So far in 2022, Israeli occupying forces have demolished or forced Palestinians to demolish 491 structures, including 81 funded by donors, displacing 626 people, including 302 children, across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, deliberately deepening the vulnerability and want of the Palestinian civilian population.

In the light of these ongoing and worsening crimes, we must reiterate that the absence of accountability is emboldening Israel's impunity and even encouraging its political and military officials and its settler gangs and militias to carry on with their assaults and oppression of the Palestinian people. What are occurring are blatant attempts not only to entrench Israel's control of the Palestinian land but also, in true colonial and apartheid fashion, to simultaneously diminish the Palestinian presence on it and the viability of our State.

These actions constitute systematic human rights violations and grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, that is to say, war crimes. It is of the utmost urgency that the international community, particularly the Security Council, act to hold Israel, the occupying Power, fully accountable for all of these violations and breaches in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the many relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and to provide protection to the Palestinian people until this historic injustice is brought to an end and they achieve liberation, exercising their right to self-determination and independence in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and achieving justice for the plight that our people, including our refugees, have endured so painfully for far too long.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 762 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 8 August 2022 ([A/ES-10/907-S/2022/603](#)), 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) **Riyad Mansour**
Minister
Permanent Observer