



DIVISION FOR  
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

# Bulletin

on action by the United Nations system and  
intergovernmental organizations  
relevant to the question of Palestine

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## **I. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR ENCOURAGED BY THE COMMITMENT TO RETURN GAZA TO THE FULL CONTROL OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

*On 3 October 2017, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov issued the following [statement](#):*

This morning I met with Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah in Gaza. I was encouraged by the firm commitment of President Abbas and the Government to return to Gaza under the full control of the legitimate Palestinian Authority. This is essential for resolving the humanitarian situation as soon as possible, most notably the crippling electricity and health crises, and should facilitate the lifting of the movement and access restrictions on Gaza, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1860.

I am encouraged by the continuing engagement of Egypt with all sides to ensure

the implementation of the Cairo understandings.

The United Nations stands ready to continue working with the legitimate Palestinian authorities and the region in support of the Government in taking up its responsibilities in Gaza.

I reiterate the call of the Middle East Quartet to end the militant activities in Gaza and ensure that peace with Israel is achieved on the basis of negotiations.

Gaza is and must be an integral part of the future Palestinian state.

## **II. UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD ADOPTS DECISIONS RELATED TO QUESTION OF PALESTINE**

*During its meeting in Paris on 6 October 2017 the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the following [draft decisions](#) related to the question of Palestine:*

1. Having examined document 202 EX/38,

2. Recalling the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions (1949) and their additional Protocols (1977), the 1907 Hague Regulations on Land Warfare, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its additional Protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of

Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982), and the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO on the protection of cultural heritage, as well as resolutions and decisions of UNESCO relating to Jerusalem, also recalling previous UNESCO decisions relating to the reconstruction and development of Gaza as well as UNESCO decisions on the two Palestinian sites in Al-Khalil/Hebron and in Bethlehem,

3. Affirming that nothing in the current decision, which aims, *inter alia*, at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Palestine and the distinctive character of East Jerusalem, shall in any way affect the

relevant Security Council and United Nations resolutions and decisions on the legal status of Palestine and Jerusalem, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),

### **30.1 Jerusalem**

4. Reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,

5. Bearing in mind that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the "basic law" on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

6. Also recalling the twelve decisions of the Executive Board: 185 EX/Decision 14, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 5.I.D, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32, 199 EX/Dec.19.1, 200 EX/Decision 25 and 201 EX/Decision 30 and the eight World Heritage Committee decisions: 34 COM/7A.20, 35 COM/7A.22, 36 COM/7A.23, 37 COM/7A.26, 38 COM/7A.4, 39 COM/7A.27, 40 COM/7A.13, and 41 COM/7A.36;

7. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent excavations, tunneling, works and projects in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

8. Also regrets the Israeli refusal to

implement the UNESCO request to the Director-General to appoint a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the above-mentioned representative;

9. Stresses again the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre to exert all possible efforts, in line with their mandates and in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, decisions and resolutions, to ensure the prompt implementation of the mission and, in case of non-implementation, to propose possible effective measures to ensure its implementation;

### **30.11 Reconstruction and development of Gaza**

10. Deplores the military confrontations in and around the Gaza Strip and the civilian casualties caused, as well as the continuous negative impact in the fields of competence of UNESCO, the attacks on schools and other educational and cultural facilities, including breaches of the inviolability of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools;

11. Also deplores the continuous Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip, which harmfully affects the free and sustained movement of personnel, students and humanitarian relief items and requests Israel to immediately ease this closure;

12. Thanks the Director-General for initiatives that have already been

implemented in Gaza in the fields of education, culture and youth and for the safety of media professionals, calls upon her to continue her active involvement in the reconstruction of Gaza's damaged educational and cultural components and reiterates, in this regard, its request to her to upgrade the UNESCO Antenna in Gaza and to organize, as soon as possible, an information meeting on the current situation in Gaza in the fields of competence of UNESCO and on the outcome of the projects conducted by UNESCO;

**30.111 The two Palestinian sites of *Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi/Tomb of the Patriarchs* in Al-Khalil/Hebron and the *Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosque/Rachel's Tomb* in Bethlehem**

13. Reaffirms that the two concerned sites located in Al-Khalil/Hebron and in Bethlehem are an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and shares the conviction affirmed by the international community that the two sites are of religious significance for Judaism, Christianity and Islam;

14. Deplores the ongoing Israeli

excavations, works, construction of private roads for settlers and of a Wall inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron which are illegal under international law and harmfully affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of worship and asks Israel, the occupying Power, to end all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

15. Regrets the visual impact of the Wall on the site of Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosque/Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem as well as the strict ban on access of Palestinian Christian and Muslim worshippers to the site, and demands that the Israeli authorities restore the original character of the landscape around the site and lift the ban on access to it;

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16. Decides to include these matters under an item entitled "Occupied Palestine" in the agenda at its 204th session, and invites the Director-General to submit to it a progress report thereon.

**III. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCOURAGED BY PROGRESS IN ALLOWING THE PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE UP RESPONSIBILITIES IN GAZA**

*On 12 October 2017, UN Secretary-General António Guterres spoke via telephone with Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the State of Palestine. The following is a [readout](#) of their conversation:*

The Secretary-General spoke today with H.E. Mr Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the State of Palestine. The Secretary-General congratulated the President on the intra-Palestinian agreement signed earlier today in Cairo.

The Secretary-General was encouraged by the recent progress in allowing the

Palestinian Government to take up its responsibilities in Gaza, and welcomed the efforts of Egypt to achieve this goal.

He emphasized the continuing need to urgently address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, particularly with regard to the electricity crisis, and improved access to and from the territory.

The Secretary-General reiterated that the United Nations stands ready to continue working with the Palestinian authorities and

the region in support of the Government in assuming its responsibilities in Gaza.

#### **IV. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR AND PALESTINIAN PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTRA-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT**

*On 16 October 2017, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, issued the following [statement](#):*

This afternoon I met with Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah to discuss the implementation of the intra-Palestinian agreement that was signed in Cairo on 12 October.

The agreement provides for the return of the crossings of Gaza to the Palestinian

Authority by 1 November. The timely and effective implementation of this provision and concrete steps to alleviate the humanitarian crisis will be critical for effectively empowering the Palestinian Government in Gaza.

#### **V. ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS BRIEFS THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

*On 18 October 2017, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr. Miroslav Jenča briefed the Security Council on “the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The following are excerpts from his briefing ([S/PV.8072](#)):*

Today’s briefing is taking place as important developments unfold to end the more than 10-year Palestinian divide and return Gaza to the full control of the legitimate Palestinian Authority.

Last month, when Hamas dissolved the administrative committee — a parallel institution to run governmental affairs in Gaza — it agreed that the Palestinian Government of National Consensus should assume its responsibilities in the Strip. President Abbas welcomed this crucial step, promising on 20 September at the General Assembly (see A/72/PV.8) that the Government would soon visit Gaza. The Secretary-General, the Middle East Quartet and several Member States expressed their firm support and encouraged the parties to build on the commendable efforts of Egypt to

seize this positive momentum towards Palestinian unity.

On 2 October, Prime Minister Hamdallah travelled to Gaza with a delegation of some 150 officials, including ministers, key security agencies and heads of the energy and water authorities. On the following day, the Government held its first meeting in Gaza since 2014.

The United Nations has worked with the Palestinian leadership and the region in support of this process. Special Coordinator Mladenov has travelled repeatedly between Ramallah, Gaza and the region in recent weeks to support the reconciliation effort and alleviate the humanitarian crisis. He also led a United Nations delegation during the Government visit and engaged with the

Prime Minister, as well as with all Palestinian political factions and civil society, to ensure their support for the implementation of the understandings reached between Fatah and Hamas in Cairo on 17 September. These understandings included a three-step process to advance Palestinian unity: the return of responsibilities in Gaza to the legitimate Palestinian Authority; subsequent bilateral talks between Fatah and Hamas in Cairo, including on public-sector employees, security and control of the border crossings; and consultations with all Palestinian factions.

On 12 October, with Egyptian mediation, Fatah and Hamas signed an agreement that enables the Palestinian Government to resume its responsibilities in Gaza. According to its provisions, by 1 November the Palestinian Authority should take control of the crossings of Gaza. Separately, a joint committee will be formed to resolve the issue of public-sector employees that should complete its work no later than 1 February 2018.

A statement released by Egypt further highlighted that the Government should assume its full responsibilities in the management of the Gaza Strip by 1 December 2017. It was further announced that Egypt had called for a meeting of all Palestinian factions in Cairo on 21 November. The agreement does not contain any provisions related to elections, the formation of a national unity Government or the disarming of Hamas.

The Secretary-General has spoken to President Abbas and welcomed the signing of this intra-Palestinian agreement. Its timely implementation and concrete efforts to alleviate the humanitarian crisis will be critical to effectively empowering the Palestinian Government in Gaza. Its implementation should also facilitate the

lifting of the closures, while addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns.

The agreement is an important step towards achieving the goal of Palestinian unity under a single, democratic Palestinian National Authority on the basis of the platform of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Quartet principles and the rule of law. The United Nations will continue working with the Palestinian leadership and the region in support of this process, which is critical to reaching a negotiated two-State solution and sustainable peace.

I would like to take a moment to discuss the acute severity of Gaza's humanitarian crisis and continuing human rights abuses.

In an urgent call to action, during his August visit to the region, the Secretary-General called it one of the most dramatic humanitarian crises he had ever seen. Since then, conditions have only worsened. For the sixth consecutive month, the 2 million people living in Gaza have received electricity for a mere four to six hours per day. The lack of energy has had a devastating impact on all aspects of their lives. It continues to disrupt essential public services, including health care, the water supply and sanitation systems. The equivalent of over 40 Olympic-size swimming pools of virtually raw sewage continues to flow daily into the Mediterranean Sea, leaving the whole shoreline contaminated. Gaza is an unfolding environmental disaster that has no regard for borders.

The quality of health care inside the Strip is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Access to medical care outside Gaza has also become increasingly difficult. As the Government returns to Gaza, it is critical that urgent measures be taken to reverse these trends.

Meanwhile in other worrying developments, on 26 September Hamas sentenced three men to death by hanging on the charge of murder, accessory to murder and burglary. There are serious doubts as to whether their trials and detention conditions in Gaza meet international standards. As in previous cases, if these executions were to be carried out, it would be in violation of Palestinian law, which requires the approval of the President. I urge Hamas not to carry out such executions, and I once again call on President Abbas to establish a moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty.

Turning to the broader situation on the ground, over the past month violence has remained at low levels compared to the rest of the region. Four Israelis were killed by a Palestinian attacker, who himself was shot, at the entrance of the Har Adar settlement on 26 September. It is deplorable that Hamas and others once again chose to glorify this attack. The United Nations urges all to condemn violence and stand up to terror.

On 4 October, the body of an Israeli man from the settlement of Elkana was found in the Israeli-Arab village of Kafr Qasim, with signs of having been subjected to extreme violence. Israeli authorities investigating the death arrested two Palestinians from the West Bank town of Qabatiya in relation to the incident. During the reporting period, in total 80 Palestinians were injured by Israeli security forces, and five Israelis injured by Palestinians. On 8 October, a rocket fired from Gaza towards Israel landed inside the Strip. No injuries or damage were reported. In response, the Israel Defense Forces shelled a Hamas post in central Gaza Strip, with no injuries reported.

Turning to the question of settlements, the Israeli High Planning Committee met on 17 and 18 October to advance plans for more than 2,000 housing units in Area C of the

occupied West Bank. That includes in the new settlement of Amihai and a new neighbourhood in Kochav Yaacov, both designated for settlers evicted from illegal outposts by court orders. Separately, a tender was issued for 296 units in Beit El, and building permits for 31 units were conditionally approved in Hebron. Reportedly, the Hebron municipality is expected to appeal that decision, which would delay the implementation of the building permits. Work began this week to prepare for the construction of infrastructure in Givat Hamatos, a settlement that, if built, would further disconnect East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank.

I remain concerned about proposed legislation that, if adopted, would expand Jerusalem's municipal jurisdiction by incorporating several West Bank settlements. The United Nations reiterates that all settlement activities are illegal under international law and are an impediment to peace.

The year 2017 has seen a significant decrease in demolitions in Area C, as compared to the previous year. Against that background, approximately 13 residential, livelihood and public structures in the West Bank and East Jerusalem were demolished in the previous month. That brings the total number of demolished structures for the year to over 350. Meanwhile, the number of demolitions in East Jerusalem is quickly approaching 2016 levels, which were the highest since 2000.

I am particularly disturbed by reported Israeli plans to evict specific communities, including Bedouin in Khan Al-Ahmar, adjacent to the E-1 area, and in Susiya, in the south Hebron hills. Nearly all structures in Khan Al-Ahmar now have demolition orders. Many of the structures are donor-funded, including a school that serves 170 children. I



urge Israel to cease the practice of demolitions, which has led to the displacement of thousands of people.

...

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that, despite the overall negative trajectory that has characterized the Palestinian-Israeli conflict for far too long, there are reasons for cautious optimism. During the previous month, thousands of Israeli and Palestinian women united in a two-week march for peace that included participants of all ages and backgrounds. The yearning for peace among both peoples remains strong. Such grass-roots initiatives by civil society are critical to building the foundation for peace, and they must be supported.

A key piece of the peace puzzle is to bring Gaza back under the control of the legitimate Palestinian Authority. The lack of Palestinian unity was identified in the July 2016 report (S/2016/595, annex) of the Middle East

Quartet as one of the main obstacles to achieving a two-State solution. Current Palestinian efforts to return the Government to Gaza must be encouraged; they must be supported; and they must be successful. The parties have taken a crucial first step in that process. They have demonstrated a willingness to engage positively and in good faith. Yet overcoming their deeply entrenched differences will not be easy. It will take time, and there will be many hurdles to overcome along the way.

Success carries with it enormous opportunity, just as failure carries with it great risks. Palestinians need to decide which path they will take. The international community must ensure that they are given every opportunity and support to reach a positive outcome. We must ensure that work can move forward on ending the occupation and establishing a viable, sovereign Palestinian State that lives in peace and security with Israel.

## **VI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE SUBMITS REPORT**

*On 18 October 2017, Secretary-General António Guterres transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. The following are the recommendations contained in the report ([A/72/539](#)):*

77. The Special Committee calls upon the Government of Israel:

(a) To implement all prior recommendations contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, and to facilitate access by the Special Committee to enter the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

(b) To end its occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza, as well as the occupied Syrian Golan,

in compliance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 497 (1981);

(c) To lift the illegal land and sea blockade imposed on Gaza for the past 10 years and open up opportunities for trade and increasing movement of Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank;

(d) To immediately address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which has been made acute by the electricity shortage, and to uphold its obligations as occupying Power

with respect to the protected Palestinian population;

(e) To facilitate access to medical treatment for Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with particular attention to the urgency of the need in Gaza owing to the deteriorating conditions caused by the blockade and closure as well as the recent electricity crisis;

(f) To cease all settlement activity and construction of the separation wall in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which contravenes international law and undermines the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people;

(g) To immediately freeze and end the illegal practice of demolitions, including administrative and punitive demolitions, which further constitute illegal collective punishment, and which contribute to the creation of a coercive environment and may lead to the forcible transfer of vulnerable communities, in violation of international humanitarian law and the rights of the Palestinian people;

(h) To ensure Palestinians have access to a non-discriminatory planning and zoning process which will advance the interests of the protected population in Area C, including Palestine refugees;

(i) To rescind all demolition, eviction and seizure orders that are likely to lead to the forcible transfer of Bedouin communities in the occupied West Bank, which affects their pastoralist lifestyle, leading to the breakdown of their traditional economies and damaging their distinct social fabric;

(j) To ensure that Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem are not subject to discriminatory requirements, that their right to family life is fully respected and protected,

and to immediately end the illegal practice of punitive residency revocation for residents of East Jerusalem;

(k) To take all measures to end illegal practices of collective punishment, including punitive home demolitions, revocation of insurance benefits, residency revocation, arrest and detention and any other measures which seek to penalize the family members of attackers or alleged attackers, which are inhumane and have no deterrent effect;

(l) To ensure that detainees are treated in accordance with the provisions in international human rights and humanitarian law, in particular with respect to detention of children, and to end the practice of administrative detention;

(m) To take all necessary precautions to ensure that Israeli forces act proportionately and in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;

(n) To systematically investigate all cases of rampant and excessive use of force that have led to death or serious injury, and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable;

(o) To conduct a prompt, thorough, transparent and independent investigation into all cases of alleged extrajudicial executions and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;

(p) To release the bodies of the Palestinians that have not yet been returned to their relatives as soon as possible in order to bring dignified closure in accordance with their religious beliefs and traditions;

(q) To ensure the protection necessary for the Palestinian civilian population and human rights defenders

engaged in the promotion of human rights issues affecting the Occupied Palestinian Territory and allow them to carry out their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment;

(r) To combat the environmental degradation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to halt the exploitation of natural resources, as well as the lack of access for Palestinians to important natural resources, notably water resources in the West Bank as well as the Gaza strip;

(s) To cease all settlement activity in the occupied Syrian Golan, and ensure access to a non-discriminatory planning and zoning process which will advance the interests of the protected population.

78. The Special Committee also calls upon the international community:

(a) To use its influence to end the blockade of Gaza, which has a significant detrimental effect on Palestinians, and in particular to immediately address the acute humanitarian crisis;

(b) To address the pattern of non-cooperation by Israel with the United Nations, in particular regarding the implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and mechanisms established by the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies;

(c) To give effect to its legal obligations, as contained in the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, on the wall;

(d) To review national policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures in relation to business activity to ensure that they effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of human rights abuses in conflict-affected areas;

(e) To ensure that corporations respect human rights and cease to fund or enter into commercial transactions with organizations and bodies involved in settlements or the exploitation of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories.

## **VII. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR CONDEMNS HAMAS STATEMENTS CALLING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

*On 22 October 2017, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nikolay Mladenov, issued the following [statement](#):*

I condemn the latest statements made by some Hamas leaders reportedly calling for the destruction of the State of Israel. They do not serve the interest of peace and the goal of achieving a negotiated two-state solution.

Under the auspices of Egypt, Palestinian leaders have embarked on a course to solve the grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza and enable the government to take up its responsibilities in the Strip. I encourage them not be distracted from this objective.

## VIII. UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR LYNK ISSUES REPORT ADDRESSING THE ILLEGALITY OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION

*On 26 October 2017, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, submitted his second report to the General Assembly. The report addresses a number of concerns pertaining to the situation of human rights in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Gaza. The following are the conclusion and recommendations of the [report](#):*

### IV. Conclusion

63. International law is the promise that states make to one another, and to their people, that rights will be respected, protections will be honoured, agreements and obligations will be satisfied, and peace with justice will be pursued. It is a tribute to the international community that it has sustained this vision of international law throughout its supervision of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory. But it is no tribute that – as the occupation deepened, as the occupier's intentions became crystal clear, and as its defiance grew – the international community recoiled from answering Israel's splintering of the Palestinian territory and disfiguring of the laws of occupation with the robust tools that international law and diplomacy provide. International law, along with the peoples of Palestine and Israel, have all suffered in the process.

64. States who administer another territory under international supervision – whether as an occupier or a mandatory power – will cross the red line into illegality if they breach their fundamental obligations as alien rulers. The International Court of Justice in Namibia supports this conclusion. The Special Rapporteur submits that Israel's role as occupant has crossed this red line. The challenge now facing the international community is to assess this analysis and, if accepted, to devise and employ the appropriate diplomatic and legal steps that, measure by measure, would completely and

finally end the occupation. As Amos Schocken, the publisher of Ha'aretz, has written about his own country's leadership: "...international pressure is precisely the force that will drive them to do the right thing."<sup>138</sup>

65. A determination that Israel's role as occupant is now illegal would serve several significant purposes. First, it would encourage member states to take all reasonable steps to prevent or discourage national institutions, organizations and corporations within their jurisdiction from engaging in activities that would invest in, or sustain, the occupation. Second, it would encourage national and international courts to apply the appropriate laws within their jurisdiction that would prevent or discourage cooperation with entities that invest in, or sustain, the occupation. Third, it would invite the international community to review its various forms of cooperation with the occupying power as long as it continues to administer the occupation unlawfully. Fourth, it would provide a solid precedent for the international community when judging other occupations of long duration. Most of all, such a determination would confirm the moral importance of upholding the international rule of law when aiding the besieged and the vulnerable.

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<sup>138</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.698874>.

## V. Recommendations

66. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government of Israel bring a complete end to the 50 years of occupation of the Palestinian territories in as expeditious a time period as possible, under international supervision.

67. The Special Rapporteur also recommends that the United Nations General Assembly:

(a) Commission a United Nations study on the legality of Israel's continued occupation of the Palestinian territory;

(b) Consider the advantages of seeking an advisory opinion from the

International Court of Justice on the question of the legality of the occupation;

(c) Consider commissioning a legal study on the ways and means that UN Member States can and must fulfill their obligations and duties to ensure respect for international law, including the duty of non-recognition, the duty to cooperate to bring to an end a wrongful situation and the duty to investigate and prosecute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

(d) Consider the adoption of a Uniting for Peace resolution with respect to the Question of Palestine, in the event that there is a determination that Israel's role as occupier is no longer lawful.