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PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

Bulletin

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

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I. SECURITY COUNCIL FAILS TO ADOPT COMPETING RESOLUTIONS ON GAZA

On 1 June, the Security Council met to consider the “Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question”. It considered two resolutions ([S/2018/516](#) and [S/2018/520](#)) on the question of Palestine, submitted by Kuwait and the United States, respectively, reproduced below. Both resolutions failed to be adopted due to a veto and to the failure to garner the required number of votes, respectively.

Kuwait: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all of its relevant resolutions, including, inter alia, resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [605 \(1987\)](#), [904 \(1994\)](#), [1397 \(2002\)](#), [1544 \(2004\)](#), [1515 \(2003\)](#), [1850 \(2008\)](#), [1860 \(2009\)](#), and [2334 \(2016\)](#),

Recalling also its Presidential Statement [2014/13](#) of 28 July 2014,

Bearing in mind the letter ([S/2015/809](#)) of 21 October 2015 by the Secretary-General,

*Recalling also its resolutions on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including its resolutions on children and armed conflict, including, *inter alia*, resolutions [1894 \(2009\)](#) and [2225 \(2015\)](#), as well as its relevant presidential statements, and its resolutions on the protection of medical and humanitarian personnel and on the protection of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in armed conflicts, including, *inter alia*, resolutions [2286 \(2016\)](#) and [2222 \(2015\)](#), as well as its other relevant resolutions and presidential statements,*

Reaffirming the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances in accordance with Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions,

Expressing its grave concern at the escalation of violence and tensions and the deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular since 30 March 2018, and its deep alarm at the loss of civilian lives and the high number of casualties among Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, including casualties among children, caused by the Israeli forces,

Condemning all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction,

Reaffirming the right to peaceful assembly and protest, freedom of expression and of association,

Emphasizing the need to pursue measures of accountability, stressing in this regard the importance of ensuring independent and transparent investigations in accordance with international standards,

Alarmed at the exacerbation of the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, and *stressing* the need to achieve a sustainable solution to this crisis in line with international law,

Stressing the particular impact that armed conflict has on women and children, including as refugees and displaced persons, as well as on other civilians who may have specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities and older persons, and *stressing* the need for the Security Council and Member States to strengthen further the protection of civilians,

Recalling that a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions and through credible and direct negotiations,

Stressing that the Gaza Strip constitutes an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967,

Reaffirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Calls* for full respect by all parties for international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including in regards to the protection of the civilian population, and reiterates the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and ensure their protection, as well as to ensure accountability for all violations;

2. *Deplores* the use of any excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and particularly in the Gaza Strip, including the use of live ammunition against civilian protesters, including children, as well as medical personnel and journalists, and *expresses* its grave concern at the loss of innocent lives;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, refrain from such actions and fully abide by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949;

4. *Deplores* any actions that could provoke violence and endanger civilian lives and *calls on* all actors to ensure that protests remain peaceful;

5. *Deplores* the firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israeli civilian areas;

6. *Calls* for urgent steps to ensure an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire;

7. *Calls* for the exercise of maximum restraint and calm by all parties and the need for immediate and significant steps to stabilize the situation and to reverse negative trends on the ground;

8. *Reaffirms* its willingness to respond to situations of armed conflict where civilians are being targeted or humanitarian assistance to civilians is being deliberately obstructed,

including through the consideration of appropriate measures that the Security Council may take in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Calls* for the consideration of measures to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the Gaza Strip;

10. *Calls also* for immediate steps towards ending the closure and the restrictions imposed by Israel on movement and access into and out of the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained opening of the crossing points of the Gaza Strip for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons in accordance with international law, including as it pertains to legitimate security requirements;

11. *Demands* that all parties cooperate with medical and humanitarian personnel to allow and facilitate unimpeded access to the civilian population, and calls for the cessation of all forms of violence and intimidation directed against medical and humanitarian personnel;

12. *Urges* the provision of immediate and unimpeded humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, bearing in mind critical medical, food, water and fuel needs, and *urges* increased support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing the vital role of the Agency, alongside other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations, in providing humanitarian and emergency assistance, notably in the Gaza Strip;

13. *Encourages* tangible steps towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation, including in support of the mediation efforts of Egypt, and concrete steps to reunite the Gaza Strip and the West Bank under the legitimate Palestinian government and ensure its effective functioning in the Gaza Strip;

14. *Welcomes* and *urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to immediately de-escalate the situation and address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian, and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine the present situation and to submit a written report, as soon as possible, but not later than 60 days from the adoption of the present resolution, containing, *inter alia*, his proposals on ways and means for ensuring the safety, protection and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation, including, *inter alia*, recommendations regarding an international protection mechanism;

16. *Calls* for renewed and urgent efforts to create the conditions necessary to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues to achieve, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a comprehensive, just and lasting comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace,

the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, as called for in resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and its other relevant resolutions;

17. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Expressing concern about the escalation of violence in Gaza caused by terrorist organizations such as Hamas,

Recalling also its resolutions on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and *emphasizing* the obligation not to attack civilians, civilian populations, or civilian objects in situations of armed conflict,

Deploring the loss of human life and the endangerment of innocent civilians,

Stressing that all parties must comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, as applicable,

Expressing its grave concern at the escalation of violence and tensions and the deterioration of the situation in Gaza, caused by terrorist organizations such as Hamas, in particular since 30 March 2018,

Condemning all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction caused by terrorist organizations such as Hamas,

Reaffirming the right to peaceful assembly and protest, freedom of expression and of association,

Alarmed at the exacerbation of the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, and *stressing* the need to achieve a sustainable solution to this crisis,

Stressing the particular impact that armed conflict has on women and children, including as refugees and displaced persons, as well as on other civilians who may have specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities and older persons, and *stressing* the need for the Security Council and Member States to strengthen further the protection of civilians,

Recalling its commitment to a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict agreed upon by both parties,

Reaffirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Condemns* in the strongest terms the indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian militants in Gaza toward communities in Israel on May 29, 2018, which damaged civilian infrastructure and was the largest attack from Gaza since 2014;

2. *Demands* that Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other militant groups in Gaza cease all violent activity and provocative actions, including along the boundary fence, and cease putting civilians at risk through their actions;

3. *Condemns* the diversion of resources by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other groups in Gaza to construct military infrastructure, including tunnels to infiltrate Israel and equipment to launch rockets, when such resources could have addressed the needs of the civilian population;

4. *Demands* that all member states refrain from providing weapons or any other materiel that could be used for rocket attacks to militant groups in Gaza;

5. *Calls* for full respect by all parties for international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including in regard to the protection of the civilian population, and reiterates the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and ensure their protection, as well as to ensure accountability for all violations;

6. *Deplores* any actions by terrorist groups in Gaza such as Hamas that could provoke violence and endanger civilian lives, and *calls on* them to ensure that protests remain peaceful;

7. *Calls* for urgent steps to ensure an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire;

8. *Calls* for the exercise of maximum restraint and calm by all parties in Gaza and the need for immediate and significant steps to stabilize the situation and to reverse negative trends on the ground caused by terrorist organizations in Gaza, including Hamas;

9. *Demands* that all parties in Gaza cooperate with medical and humanitarian personnel to allow and facilitate unimpeded access to the civilian population, *calls* for the cessation of all forms of violence and intimidation directed against medical and humanitarian personnel, and *expresses grave concern* for the destruction of the Kerem Shalom crossing by actors in Gaza, which has severely hindered deliveries of food and fuel for the people of Gaza;

10. *Encourages* tangible steps towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation, including in support of the mediation efforts of Egypt, and concrete steps to reunite the Gaza Strip and the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority and ensure its effective functioning in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Welcomes* and *urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to immediately de-escalate the situation and address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian, and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine the present situation and to submit a written report, as soon as possible, but not later than 60 days from the adoption of the present resolution, on terrorist organizations such as Hamas using protesters for incitement and

carrying out other acts of violence in the past 90 days, with the goal of preventing such clashes in the future;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

II. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON PROTECTING PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS, REJECTS US AMENDMENT TO CONDEMN HAMAS

The General Assembly adopted a resolution on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population at the 38th meeting of its Tenth Emergency Special Session ([A/RES/ES-10/20](#)) on 13 June after rejecting an amendment proposed by the United States. The resolution is reproduced below.

ES-10/20. Protection of the Palestinian civilian population

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions regarding the question of Palestine,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions on the protection of civilians, including resolution [71/144](#) of 13 December 2016 on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, resolution [72/131](#) of 11 December 2017 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and resolution [72/175](#) of 19 December 2017 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity,

Recalling further the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, including the most recent report, of 14 May 2018, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,¹

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973, [605 \(1987\)](#) of 22 December 1987, [904 \(1994\)](#) of 18 March 1994, [1397 \(2002\)](#) of 12 March 2002, [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003, [1544 \(2004\)](#) of 19 May 2004, [1850 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008, [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009 and [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016,

Recalling also the statement by the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,²

Bearing in mind the letter dated 21 October 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council,³

Recalling Security Council resolutions on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including resolutions on children and armed conflict, including, inter alia, resolutions [1894 \(2009\)](#) of 11 November 2009 and [2225 \(2015\)](#) of 18 June 2015, as well as relevant statements by its President, and resolutions on the protection of medical and humanitarian

¹ [S/2018/462](#).

² [S/PRST/2014/13](#); see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* ([S/INF/69](#)).

³ [S/2015/809](#).

personnel and on the protection of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in armed conflicts, including, inter alia, resolutions [2222 \(2015\)](#) of 27 May 2015 and [2286 \(2016\)](#) of 3 May 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions and statements by its President,

Reaffirming the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances in accordance with article 1 of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,⁴

Expressing its grave concern at the escalation of violence and tensions and the deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular since 30 March 2018, and its deep alarm at the loss of civilian lives and the high number of casualties among Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, including casualties among children, caused by the Israeli forces,

Condemning all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction,

Reaffirming the right to peaceful assembly and protest, and freedom of expression and of association,

Emphasizing the need to pursue measures of accountability, and stressing in this regard the importance of ensuring independent and transparent investigations in accordance with international standards,

Alarmed at the exacerbation of the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, and stressing the need to achieve a sustainable solution to this crisis in line with international law,

Stressing the particular impact that armed conflict has on women and children, including as refugees and displaced persons, as well as on other civilians who may have specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities and older persons, and stressing the need for the Security Council and Member States to strengthen further the protection of civilians,

Recalling that a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions and through credible and direct negotiations,

Stressing that the Gaza Strip constitutes an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967,

Reaffirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Calls for* full respect by all parties for international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including in regard to the protection of the civilian population, and reiterates the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-

⁴ *United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.*

being of civilians and ensure their protection, as well as to ensure accountability for all violations;

2. *Deplores* the use of any excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and particularly in the Gaza Strip, including the use of live ammunition against civilian protesters, including children, as well as medical personnel and journalists, and expresses its grave concern at the loss of innocent lives;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, refrain from such actions and fully abide by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;⁵

4. *Deplores* any actions that could provoke violence and endanger civilian lives, and calls upon all actors to ensure that protests remain peaceful;

5. *Also deplores* the firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israeli civilian areas;

6. *Calls for* urgent steps to ensure an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire;

7. *Also calls for* the exercise of maximum restraint and calm by all parties, and stresses the need for immediate and significant steps to stabilize the situation and to reverse negative trends on the ground;

8. *Stresses* the need to respond to situations of armed conflict where civilians are being targeted or humanitarian assistance to civilians is being deliberately obstructed, including through the consideration of appropriate measures that may be taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Calls for* the consideration of measures to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the Gaza Strip;

10. *Also calls for* immediate steps towards ending the closure and the restrictions imposed by Israel on movement and access into and out of the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained opening of the crossing points of the Gaza Strip for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons in accordance with international law, including as it pertains to legitimate security requirements;

11. *Demands* that all parties cooperate with medical and humanitarian personnel to allow and facilitate unimpeded access to the civilian population, and calls for the cessation of all forms of violence and intimidation directed against medical and humanitarian personnel;

12. *Urges* the provision of immediate and unimpeded humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, bearing in mind critical medical, food, water and fuel needs, and urges increased support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing the vital role of the Agency,

⁵ *Ibid.*, No. 973.

alongside other United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations, in providing humanitarian and emergency assistance, notably in the Gaza Strip;

13. *Encourages* tangible steps towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation, including in support of the mediation efforts of Egypt, and concrete steps to reunite the Gaza Strip and the West Bank under the legitimate Palestinian Government and ensure its effective functioning in the Gaza Strip;

14. *Welcomes and urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to immediately de-escalate the situation and address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine the present situation and to submit a written report, as soon as possible, but not later than 60 days from the adoption of the present resolution, containing, inter alia, his proposals on ways and means for ensuring the safety, protection and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation, including, inter alia, recommendations regarding an international protection mechanism;

16. *Calls for* renewed and urgent efforts to create the conditions necessary to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues to achieve, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a comprehensive, just and lasting comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative⁶ and the Quartet road map,⁷ as called for in Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and other relevant resolutions;

17. *Decides* to adjourn the tenth emergency special session temporarily and to authorize the President of the General Assembly at its most recent session to resume its meeting upon request from Member States.

*38th plenary meeting
13 June 2018*

⁶ [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution 14/221.

⁷ [S/2003/529](#), annex.

III. SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS FIRST WRITTEN REPORT ON RESOLUTION 2334 (2016)

On 18 June the Security Council considered the Secretary-General's first written report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) issued as document [S/2018/614](#), excerpted below.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the sixth quarterly report on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#). It provides a review and an assessment of the implementation of the resolution since my previous report on the subject, which was delivered orally on 26 March 2018, and covers developments until 12 June 2018.

II. Settlement activities

2. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, had no legal validity and constituted a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. The Council reiterated its demands that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard. No such steps were taken during the reporting period.

3. During the reporting period, some 3,500 housing units in settlements in Area C of the occupied West Bank were advanced, approved or tendered. One third of those units are in settlements in outlying locations deep in the West Bank. Plans for 2,300 units were advanced in the approval process, plans for 300 units reached the final approval stage, and tenders were announced for about 900 units. During the previous reporting period, 1,500 units were advanced, 160 approved and 900 tenders issued. As in the previous period, no advancements, approvals or tenders were made in occupied East Jerusalem. Among the largest plans advanced for settlements deep in the West Bank are those for 135 units in Tene, 156 in Qiryat Arba', 189 in Talmon and 102 in Negohot. One of the plans approved for construction is for 55 units in the settlement of Peza'el, situated in the Jordan Valley, in a sensitive location where settlement expansion risks severing the north-south connection in the northern West Bank.

4. On 26 March, 20 settler families occupied two houses located a few metres from the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron's H2 area, claiming that they had purchased the houses from their Palestinian owners. Ownership is currently being adjudicated by Israeli military authorities.

5. On 13 May, the Government of Israel approved five plans for government investment in Jerusalem, the largest amounting to \$550 million and aimed at closing gaps in infrastructure, service delivery and employment opportunities for the Palestinian neighbourhoods of occupied East Jerusalem.

6. The plans also include allocating \$115 million for the development of economic, commercial and recreational activities, as well as archaeological sites in and around the Old City. Approximately \$55 million was allocated to advance the controversial plan to build a cable car from West Jerusalem to the Old City. Concerns have been raised among Palestinians in East Jerusalem that those planned steps could deepen control by Israel over Jerusalem.

7. Demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures continued across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, albeit at the relatively low rate that characterized the past year. Demolitions increased overall across Area C by 94 per cent and decreased in East Jerusalem by 64 per cent, compared with the previous reporting period. Citing the absence of permits, which, as noted in the Middle East Quartet report of 2016, are extremely difficult for Palestinians to obtain in Area C and East Jerusalem, Israeli authorities demolished or seized 84 Palestinian-owned structures. This resulted in the forced displacement of 67 people and potentially affected the livelihoods of 4,500 others.

8. A new order by the Israel Defense Forces stipulates, as of 16 June, the demolition of unlicensed structures that are deemed “new” (i.e. established within 6 months or inhabited for less than 30 days) within 96 hours of the issuance of a removal order. That procedure will significantly impede the ability of Palestinians to challenge demolition orders in Israeli courts.

9. On 24 May, the High Court of Justice of Israel ruled that the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar — Abu al-Helu, home to 181 Palestinians, more than half of whom are children, could proceed. It renders nearly all community structures at risk of immediate demolition, including a school serving 170 students from five communities. Focusing on the legality of the demolition orders according to Israeli law, the High Court rejected the petitions requesting that the implementation of the demolition order by the State be prevented.

10. On 23 April, residents of the Bedouin community of Jabal al-Baba were forced to dismantle a caravan used as a kindergarten, a women’s centre and a clinic, following a seizure warning from the Israeli authorities. Jabal al-Baba is one of 18 Bedouin communities, comprising more than 3,500 persons located within or near the E1 settlement plan area, which envisages a continuous built-up area between Ma’ale Adummim and East Jerusalem that threatens the north-south contiguity of a future Palestinian State.

11. On 9 April, the Israeli authorities dismantled a donor-funded school in Khirbat Zanuta, in Hebron Governorate, subsequently seizing replacement structures. Also in Hebron, on 2 May several donor-funded structures in Masafer Yatta were demolished, displacing 35 people. This included six residential structures, electricity-generating equipment, animal pens and water systems. Four solar panels were also confiscated.

12. In the Silwan neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, on 8 April, Palestinian families in three houses were evicted by court order. Although the families obtained an injunction to suspend the eviction orders, they were not allowed to return to their homes.

13. On 12 June, the Israeli authorities evacuated and demolished 15 houses of Israeli citizens living in the illegal outpost of Netiv Ha’avot in the West Bank. The evacuation was

carried out following a ruling by the High Court of Justice in September 2016 that the houses were illegally built, either fully or partially, on private Palestinian land.

...

VII. Observations

61. The settlement activities of Israel continue unabated and undermine the hopes and the practical prospects for establishing a viable Palestinian State. The decision on 30 May by Israel to advance, approve and tender some 3,500 housing units in the occupied West Bank, the largest single batch of advancements since June 2017, creates yet more obstacles to advancing a negotiated two-State solution. I reiterate that all settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, constitutes a flagrant violation under international law, as stated in resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and must cease immediately and completely.

62. The ruling of 24 May of the High Court of Justice to enable the demolition of almost all structures in Khan al-Ahmar — Abu al-Helu puts the community at imminent risk. I am also concerned that the decision represents a significant precedent and threat for other Bedouin herder communities across Area C of the occupied West Bank. I call upon the Government of Israel to cancel its plans to carry out the mass demolition and the transfer of the residents of Khan al-Ahmar — Abu al-Helu, and remind all parties that such actions within an occupied territory may constitute a grave breach of international humanitarian law.

63. In Gaza, the reporting period witnessed the immense suffering of the people and the most serious escalation since the conflict between Hamas and Israel in 2014. It is and should be a warning to all as to how close to the brink of war the situation is. Only by changing the reality on the ground — by recognizing and addressing the plight of Palestinians in Gaza, by ensuring that all sides recommit to the 2014 ceasefire understandings and by supporting Egyptian-led efforts to restore control by the legitimate Government of the State of Palestine in Gaza — can the possibility of a viable, independent and fully representative Palestinian State be preserved and another disastrous, lethal conflict averted. I unequivocally condemn the steps by all parties that have led to this dangerous and fragile place.

64. I am shocked by the number of deaths and injuries of Palestinians resulting from the use of live fire by the Israel Defense Forces since protests began along the Gaza perimeter fence on 30 March. Israel has a responsibility to exercise maximum restraint in the use of live fire and to not use lethal force, except as a last resort against imminent threat of death or serious injury. It must protect its citizens, but it must do so with due respect of international humanitarian law. The killing of children, as well as of clearly identified journalists and medical staff, by security forces during a demonstration is particularly unacceptable. Journalists and medical staff must be allowed to perform their duties without fear of death or injury. Attacks on medical teams in Gaza not only risk the life and health of staff and patients but also undermine the overall capacity of the health system of Gaza. Noting that the Israel Defense Forces have established a team to examine recent events, I reiterate my calls for an independent and transparent investigation into these incidents.

65. The actions of Hamas and other militant groups put at risk not only the lives of Israelis and Palestinians but also the efforts to restore dignity and the prospects of a liveable future for Palestinians in Gaza. In the context of the Great March of Return, some have attempted to breach or place explosives at or near the fence, exploiting and undermining the legitimate right of individuals to protest non-violently. Rockets launched towards Israel on 29 and 30 May have brought us closer to all-out conflict than we have seen since 2014. All these actions are unacceptable and, in the case of the indiscriminate firing of rockets at civilian populations, may constitute a violation of international humanitarian law. Hamas and others must prevent the launch of rockets and breach of the fence, as escalation only costs more precious lives.

66. The incitement by the Hamas leadership of protesters in Gaza inflamed and encouraged a highly volatile situation that contributed to violent actions at the fence and risked serious escalation. On several occasions, Hamas leaders directly called upon protesters to breach the fence and seek martyrdom. Statements from senior Israeli government officials falsely asserting that all Palestinians there were affiliated with Hamas, and thus legitimate targets, signalled a permissive Israeli policy towards the use of live fire against protesters and contributed to the tragedy that the international community has witnessed over the past 11 weeks.

67. Provocative rhetoric by Palestinian and Israeli officials during the reporting period also continue to undermine trust between the parties and do not serve the interests of peace in the Middle East. Leaders have a responsibility to reduce, not augment, tensions, to build bridges, not create obstacles, and to confront conspiracy theories, not perpetuate them.

68. I note the decision by the Government of Israel to increase investment in occupied East Jerusalem. While gaps in infrastructure and service delivery in Palestinian neighbourhoods have long been a concern, some elements, as well as the accompanying political rhetoric, raise concerns, particularly among Palestinians in East Jerusalem, that the planned steps could undermine their political, cultural and economic connections with the rest of the West Bank, threaten their properties and deepen control by Israel over Jerusalem. I reiterate that unilateral steps by any party seeking to alter the character or prejudge the final status of Jerusalem, which must be determined by the parties through negotiations on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, taking into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and the Israeli sides, are inconsistent with United Nations resolutions and are an obstacle to peace.

69. The convening of the Palestinian National Council for the first time in 22 years was a welcome development. However, I express concern at some aspects of its final statement, particularly the provision to stop all forms of security coordination and to be free from the economic dependency ties established by the Paris Protocol, including the economic boycott of occupation products, in support of the independence of the national economy and its growth, and to suspend the recognition of Israel until it recognizes the State of Palestine on the basis of the borders of 4 June 1967 and repeals the decision to annex East Jerusalem and stop the settlements. If taken, such steps could reverse progress attained through years of negotiations and efforts spent building Palestinian national institutions, while making a return to meaningful negotiations even more difficult.

70. I am deeply concerned by the economic collapse in Gaza. In addition to the impact of the restrictive closure regime, the non-payment of salaries by the Government of the State of Palestine to Palestinian employees in Gaza further compounds the situation, already marked by a severe liquidity crisis and an acute shortage of cash. This and other dangerous measures must be rolled back and no new ones imposed. Efforts to preserve the links and unite Gaza with the West Bank must continue, starting with the return of Gaza to the full control of the legitimate Government of the State of Palestine. The success of any initiative in Gaza is linked to a credible political horizon that unites all Palestinians.

71. I have continuously warned of the risks of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza. Today, the desperate situation is compounded by the potential suspension of key United Nations programmes, a lifeline for Palestinians in Gaza. The precarious financial situation of UNRWA is of particular concern, not only for approximately 1 million Palestine refugees in Gaza who receive food and other humanitarian assistance, but also for recipients of UNRWA services throughout the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. The substantial shortfall of \$250 million, if not urgently met, runs the serious risk of disrupting the Agency's services. The additional instability caused by such a development in a region already wracked by conflict can, and must, be prevented, if all act now to address the gap. I call upon all Member States to further support UNRWA, including on the occasion of the pledging conference to be held in New York on 25 June.

72. I welcome the cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to ensure that the Kerem Shalom crossing, critical to humanitarian delivery, continues to function with minimal interruptions despite three rounds of damage caused by Palestinian protesters. Looking ahead, and taking into consideration its legitimate security concerns, I urge Israel to ease the movement of goods and people to and from Gaza. Only by a full lifting of the debilitating closures, in line with Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#), can we hope to sustainably resolve the humanitarian crisis and begin the important task of development. I also welcome the decision by Egypt to open the Rafah border crossing during the holy month of Ramadan, and hope for more regular movement through the crossing.

73. I remain greatly concerned by the state of our collective efforts to advance peace, and I urge key regional and international partners to re-engage and remain steadfast in pursuit of a two-State solution. I reaffirm my commitment to the Middle East Quartet, which remains the pre-eminent forum in which to discuss perspectives for resolving the conflict.

74. Given the interconnected nature of conflicts throughout the region and the iconic nature of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that can feed extremist narratives, creating the conditions for the parties to return to meaningful bilateral negotiations remains critical.

75. I welcome discussions in the Security Council of ideas to confront the untenable situation in Gaza by advancing infrastructure and development projects, improving access and movement and supporting the vital Egyptian-led reconciliation process. My Special Coordinator will continue to engage constructively with the Government of the State of Palestine and with Egypt, Israel and key international partners to move forward with a quick implementation of a set of relatively modest, achievable interventions that will have an immediate impact on the lives of Palestinians in Gaza and support longer-term development

initiatives. Ultimately, these efforts are meant to strengthen, not replace, overarching political objectives. Economic development, critical as it is, is no substitute for sovereignty and statehood.

76. I strongly condemn, as I have consistently done, unilateral measures, which jeopardize the prospect of peace for Israelis and Palestinians. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council explicitly underlined that it would not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations.

77. Gaza cannot be ignored or dealt with out of context; it is an integral part of the Palestinian story. The plight of Palestinians in Gaza brings into sharp relief the fact that the current trajectory, not only in Gaza but also throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and in Israel, is not sustainable. The multifaceted crisis in Gaza can ultimately be resolved only if the wider Israeli-Palestinian conflict is addressed, by ending the occupation; resolving all final status issues, including the status of Jerusalem, the Palestine refugees, borders and security arrangements; and establishing a viable, independent Palestinian State that will achieve the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions, prior agreements and international law. I reiterate that there is no viable alternative to the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

IV. SECRETARY-GENERAL REACTS TO US WITHDRAWAL FROM HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

On 19 June, in answer to questions following the announcement by the United States of its decision to withdraw from the Human Rights Council, the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General issued the following [note](#) to correspondents.

The Secretary-General would have much preferred for the United States to remain in the Human Rights Council. The UN's Human Rights architecture plays a very important role in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.

V. PALESTINE JOINS ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

On 21 June, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) issued the following [press release](#).

The State of Palestine became a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, bringing the total number of OPCW Member States to 193.

The State of Palestine deposited its instrument of accession on 17 May 2018 with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Convention entered into force for it on 16 June 2018.

Background

As the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, the OPCW oversees the global endeavour to permanently and verifiably eliminate chemical weapons. Since the Convention's entry into force in 1997 – and with its 193 States Parties – it is the most successful disarmament treaty eliminating an entire class of weapons of mass destruction.

Over ninety-six per cent of all chemical weapon stockpiles declared by possessor States have been destroyed under OPCW verification. For its extensive efforts in eliminating chemical weapons, the OPCW received the 2013 Nobel Prize for Peace.

VI. STRONG SUPPORT FOR UNRWA AT ITS ANNUAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE

On 26 June, UNRWA issued the following [press release](#).

The Pledging Conference was a very positive event sustaining momentum in addressing the remaining shortfall of US\$ 250 million of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which could critically affect the vital UNRWA services to Palestine refugees. UN Member States expressed strong political support for UNRWA, its mandate and staff, and its critical services to Palestine refugees. The Conference saw additional pledges to UNRWA as part of an international effort to address the Agency's funding shortfall, and to sustain its vital services.

The Pledging Conference date was advanced from December to June to allow UNRWA to consult with the General Assembly on the status of its finances in the middle of the year, when there is still time to take action to address the remaining shortfall. The Pledging Conference was established as a forum for Member States to concretely express their solidarity with Palestine refugees. The Conference assumed even greater importance in 2018, given the current and unprecedented UNRWA shortfall. There were many calls for collective action to ensure UNRWA activities continue throughout 2018.

Reflecting the commitment of the international community to UNRWA and Palestine refugees, the Conference was attended by officials from more than seventy Member States, as well as international organizations partnering with UNRWA and members of civil society. Statements were made by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the President of the UN General Assembly Miroslav Lajčák, the UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl, as well as numerous Member States.

The Secretary-General expressed his “deep worry about the increase in human suffering and the destabilizing impact if we fail to find the necessary resources to maintain vital UNRWA services to the end of the year”. He stressed the invaluable contribution of UNRWA to long-term development, in particular education, health care, gender parity, and economic empowerment, thereby “moving our world closer to the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind”.

The Commissioner-General thanked Member States for their support, particularly those who had made additional contributions already in 2018. He noted however, given the current shortfall

“we do not have income to ensure the schools will open on time in August”. The Commissioner-General added that, “it is critical that we build on the success of the first half of the year and secure the needed funding to ensure the next school year opens on time and our key programmes are preserved”.

VII. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DISCUSSES THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), with the support of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), convened an International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem from 26 to 28 June in Rabat, Morocco. The [Chair's Summary](#) is reproduced below.

The International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem “The Question of Jerusalem after 50 years of Occupation and 25 years of the Oslo Accords” was convened in Rabat on 26 to 28 June 2018, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) and with support of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Ahead of the Conference, on 26 June the Committee Delegation held bilateral meetings with Mr. Yousef Gharbi, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives (Upper House) of the Parliament of Morocco and Mr. Abdelhakim Benchemach, Vice President of the House of Councillors (Lower House). The Delegation also had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco.

The Conference brought together Palestinian, Israeli and international experts, representatives of the diplomatic community and civil society to provide up-to-date information on the current situation in East Jerusalem, examine latest legal developments impacting the political and social status of Palestinians, and explore practical ways that the International Community could support the City’s resilience and development, in particular its youth. In addition, the event identified opportunities for international and regional support while safeguarding the rights of Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

At the opening, a message delivered on his behalf by Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Bourita, **King Mohammed VI of Morocco and Chairman of Al-Quds Committee of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation** reiterated his rejection of the movement of embassies to Jerusalem and any modification of the legal, political or historical status of Jerusalem, since this would undermine international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Question of Palestine. He also called for greater rallying of diplomatic efforts and actions on the ground to promote development in the social and humanitarian fields. Concretely, and in relation to the Conference held in Rabat, King Mohammed VI suggested that future such conferences also be held outside the Arabo-Islamic world.

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča recalled that Jerusalem is a final status issue that must be resolved through direct negotiations between the two parties on the basis of relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolution. He stressed that it is more important today than ever to take effective concerted action, as decades of convergence and global consensus are eroding noting that recent developments in Jerusalem, taken against international

consensus and the resolutions of the UN Security Council, risk to embolden antagonistic voices on both sides and to further weaken any hopes to reach a peaceful and sustainable solution.

Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Samir Bakr, delivered a message from the Secretary General of the organization calling on the international community to intervene responsibly and effectively to protect the vision of the two-State solution by engaging a multilateral political process based on international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative. He reiterated the OIC's rejection of US decisions to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to transfer its embassy to the City and expressed regret over the failure of the Security Council to act against Israeli transgressions of international law.

The representative of the State of Palestine, **Minister of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction Mohammad Shtayyeh**, stated that the components of the solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict were well known and enjoyed near-consensus of the international community. However, the formula of negotiations under the sole mediation by the United States had failed as the latter was not a fair mediator. He reiterated the eight-point plan presented by President Abbas to the Security Council on 20 February 2018, adding that Palestinian would welcome an international conference and a mechanism to end the conflict on the basis of the international law and international legitimacy. In reference to the internal Palestinian divide, he added that the Palestinian Authority under President Abbas remained open and ready to cooperate with other groups, e.g. Hamas, provided that they fully accept the two-State solution, abide by international law, embrace peaceful popular resistance and a single legitimate authority, and the holding of elections to revive Palestinian democracy.

In his statement, the **Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Fodé Seck (Senegal)**, reiterated the Committee's rejection of recent decisions by the United States and other countries to transfer their embassies to Jerusalem, in violation of international law. Recalling that the international community has an obligation to support the Palestinian inhabitants of East Jerusalem morally and politically, through diplomacy, and materially, he pointed to the activities of the Committee in the diplomatic and capacity building arenas – such as conferences, bilateral visits and numerous trainings for Palestinian civil servants – as contributions to the larger goal for the Palestinian people to attain their inalienable rights.

During the first panel, on “*Political and social status of Palestinians in East Jerusalem today*”, speakers outlined the Israeli policy of imposing facts on the ground onto Jerusalem with the goal to make them irrevocable. They also addressed the background of US decisions under President Trump and their impact, among them the fact that, instead of taking the Question of Jerusalem off the negotiations table, it has now brought greater attention to the question from the international community. Panellists also highlighted the genesis and current situation of Israeli residency regulations for Palestinians in Jerusalem, which aim to transform and keep them as a minority in their own city without full political, economic and social rights. Participants called for the launching of initiatives for Palestinians in Jerusalem to stay in the City; they also referred to the role played by parliamentarians in support of the Palestinian people. Others cautioned against losing sight of the political aspects while focusing on humanitarian questions. All agreed that the Palestinian community, its heritage and institutions in Jerusalem needed to be reinforced.

In the second panel, on “*The Question of Jerusalem in international law and Member States’ obligations*”, participants recalled UN General Assembly resolution 181 and the international status of the entire City, which made it a final status question for Israeli-Palestinian negotiation. They examined the cautious engagement of the European Union and recent fissures in the political consensus of the regional bloc, and explored why during previous rounds of negotiations, the question of Jerusalem could not be solved. During the discussion, speakers pointed to the hardening political positions in Israel and a coloniser/colonised power dynamic between Israelis and Palestinians. They called for the EU to take a more active role and to fulfil its obligations to safeguard human rights. Addressing the question why Israelis and Palestinians had failed so far to reach an agreement, attendees pointed out that the fundamental problem was the Israeli occupation, and Israelis’ reluctance to recognize the Palestinian people as an equal.

Continuing the Conference on 28 June, the third panel, on “*Coming of age under occupation: Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem*”, highlighted the hurdles faced by the young generation in maintaining their right to live in the City, seeking education and to create a liveable future. The Palestinian youth speakers echoed calls from earlier panels for increased international political and development support. The panel also highlighted United Nations support to East Jerusalem. Speakers argued that suggestions for Palestinians in East Jerusalem to participate in the Israeli municipal elections which could help increase budget allocations for their neighbourhoods would, however, amount to accepting and legitimising the Israeli annexation of occupied territory. Others remarked that the task for Israeli partners in the quest for peace was not to advise Palestinians how to accommodate the occupation, but to work inside their own community with the goal to end the occupation.

In the fourth panel, on “*Palestinian rights in East Jerusalem and the International Community*”, saw panellists highlighting the contributions of Member States and inter-governmental organisations – among them Turkey, Bayt Mal al-Quds, the OIC Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), and the United Nations Programme of Assistance to the *Palestinian People* (PAPP) – to East Jerusalem, to support its population in the realms of development aid and resilience and the preservation of its historic and cultural identity. The discussion saw a strong appreciation for regional and United Nations support to the Palestinian people, as well as calls for a permanent UNESCO presence in Jerusalem as a safeguard against further Israeli alterations. In response to a query why no representative of Hamas, the de-facto authority in the Gaza Strip, had been present at the conference, participants pointed out that the Israeli and US focus on Hamas was only a new phase in the long-standing attempt to put the onus of compliant behaviour on the Palestinian side; instead the core problem was the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and population. In addition, while the Committee always aimed to invite Palestinians from Gaza – albeit not Hamas as an organisation – to its conferences, Israel would not issue exit permits.

The closing session saw statements by the host country and the State of Palestine. **Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Fouad Akhrif** recalled that the message of King Mohammed VI had elevated the conference and showed the clear position of Morocco regarding Palestine and Palestinian rights. The only possibility for a fair and just settlement of the conflict was the two-State solution based on international law. The conference was set in the framework of international and regional efforts for the realization of Palestinian rights. He called on all to continue to be committed to the independence of Palestine state with

East Jerusalem as its capital. **Ambassador Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations**, emphasized the importance to redouble efforts in defending the two-State solution, if the international community, and among them Israel and the United States, did not want to see a further deterioration of the situation. He called upon the international community to create the conditions where all could put an end to the current tragedy, and said that Israel could not continue to oppress and humiliate Palestinians and still expect peace.

****Note: This Summary attempts to provide an overall picture of the deliberations of the Conference. A detailed report, including specific questions that were addressed during the interactive discussions, will be published by the Division for Palestinian Rights in due course.*

VIII. UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONCLUDES REGIONAL VISIT

On 29 June, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, issued the following [press release](#) after his visit to the region.

“After years of creeping Israeli de facto annexation of the large swathes of the West Bank through settlement expansion, the creation of closed military zones and other measures, Israel appears to be getting closer to enacting legislation that will formally annex parts of the West Bank,” said the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk. “This would amount to a profound violation of international law, and the impact of ongoing settlement expansion on human rights must not be ignored.”

Lynk travelled to Amman, Jordan this week to meet with civil society, government officials and UN representatives to collect information for his next report, to be presented to the 73rd session of the General Assembly in October 2018. Israel, the occupying power, has continued to prohibit him from travelling to the OPT.

“This is my third mission to the region since I assumed the mandate in May 2016, and the reports I received this week have painted the bleakest picture yet of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,” he said.

“Palestinians in the West Bank face daily indignities, as they pass through Israeli checkpoints, face night raids of their homes, and are unable to build or expand their homes or work to develop their communities due to the complex system which makes building permits nearly impossible to obtain from the Israeli authorities,” the Special Rapporteur said.

Lynk cited the situation of Khan al-Ahmar, a Bedouin community near Jerusalem, which is at imminent risk of forcible transfer after the Israeli High Court of Justice upheld a demolition order for all structures in the community. “Its residents are living in a coercive environment that may lead to forcible transfer, not knowing where they may find themselves in the coming months and not knowing if they will be living in a place where they are able to continue their traditional way of life,” he said.

The expert said the situation in Gaza continued to worsen, highlighting that the electricity crisis for example, which became acute last June, had not been alleviated. “Residents are deprived of their most basic rights, including the rights to health, to education, and most recently, in attempting to exercise their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, they were deprived of the right to life,” Lynk said, in reference to the recent demonstrations along the fence during which Israeli security forces killed more than 100 and wounded thousands of Palestinian protesters.

He also expressed concern about the impact of significant cuts to the funding of UNRWA, the UN agency that helps Palestinian refugees, noting its crucial role in providing health, protection and education services as well as employment in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Special Rapporteur heard eloquent testimony about the challenges facing the Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem, and expressed concern at information he received that recently, the Israeli Government and the Jerusalem Municipality have been advancing plans that risk denying the residency rights of 120,000 Palestinians in the municipality as part of a larger policy to maintain an Israeli Jewish majority in Jerusalem.

The Rapporteur was particularly concerned at information he received this week indicating that many human rights organizations and human rights defenders – Israeli, Palestinian, and international – are facing increasing attacks aimed not only at their delegitimization but also at their ability to operate. He is particularly concerned that these attacks are gaining traction with members of the international community. “The incredible, and extremely difficult work that these human rights organizations do is essential to preventing a further deterioration of the human rights situation in the OPT, and any effort to undermine this work only serves to weaken human rights in the OPT, and in the broader world.”
