



# General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General  
18 May 2021

Original: English

General Assembly  
Seventy-fifth session  
Agenda item 37

**The situation in the Middle East**

Security Council  
Seventy-sixth year

## **Letter dated 12 May 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing to you with regard to the recent violations against Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Jerusalemites, including the families of the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem, to explain the position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and to stress the urgent need to cease these dangerous provocations against Jerusalemites, which contravene international law and violate human rights.

We are witnessing a new escalation by Israel, the occupying power, against Palestinian civilians, against Muslim worshippers and against the holy sites in Jerusalem. The Israeli violations and escalatory measures at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif have increased dramatically during the holy month of Ramadan. These violations against one of the three holiest sites in Islam provoke around 2 billion Muslims all over the world and must stop immediately. Muslim worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif must be allowed to worship in peace, free from violence, threats and provocations.

Jordan rejects any attempt by Israel, the occupying power, to alter the historical and legal status quo at the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, including Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and reaffirms the importance of the historical Hashemite custodianship of King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, over the Islamic and Christian holy sites and His role in protecting their Arab, Islamic and Christian identity.

Furthermore, we reaffirm that, under international law, the Jordanian Administration of Jerusalem's Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs is the sole and exclusive authority over Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif to run all the affairs of the holy site and organize entry to and exit from it.

On the question of the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem, I wish to draw the Council's attention to the fact that, in 1954, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, represented by the then Ministry of Construction, concluded an agreement with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to establish 28 housing units for a



number of Palestinian families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood and it also concluded agreements with the families in 1956.

The concerned ministries and institutions in Jordan carried out a search process that spanned years on documents related to the issue and handed over all available contracts, the agreement with UNRWA, the list of beneficiaries and correspondence to the Palestinian National Authority and the families of Sheikh Jarrah and their lawyers. The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates also ratified 14 agreements provided to it by the Sheikh Jarrah families, and a certificate was sent to their lawyer regarding the merits of the matter. These documents, contracts, lists and agreements prove the ownership of the families of Sheikh Jarrah of their properties and help them to preserve their legitimate rights.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan rejects the Israeli authorities' attempts to evict the residents of Sheikh Jarrah from their homes and asserts that Jerusalemites are treated as protected persons according to international law and international humanitarian law, and that therefore the Israeli authorities have no right to forcibly evict them from their homes. Their eviction would constitute a violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

I avail myself of this opportunity to also reaffirm that all decisions of the Israeli courts in the occupied East Jerusalem are null and void in their entirety based on international humanitarian law. We appeal to the Security Council to demand Israel, the occupying power, to respect the principles of international law related to this issue and to respect the right of the Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah to their homes. The right of these families to their properties still exists and has not been terminated by the Jordanian Government at any time.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, based on its unwavering positions in support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, has followed up on this issue from the beginning, and it will continue its efforts to mobilize international support for the just cause of the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood and to formulate an international position that pressures Israel to stop implementing its illegal plans.

Israeli illegal and provocative measures in occupied East Jerusalem, including the inhumane threat of eviction of Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah from their homes, are pushing tension to dangerous limits. Therefore, we call upon the Security Council to act swiftly, effectively and collectively to prevent the eviction of Palestinians, to reject the Israeli authorities' attempts to change the demographics in East Jerusalem and alter the historical and legal status quo and to put an end to Israeli violations at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Sima **Bahous**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations