

**Security Council**

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

In the capacity of the State of Qatar as the current Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States and Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations (see annex) transmitting resolution 8660 entitled “Israeli aggression against the occupied city of Jerusalem and its people, including the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood”, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level at an extraordinary session held virtually on 11 May 2021.

It would be highly appreciated if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

In keeping with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the chair of each ministerial or summit session of the Council of the League of Arab States is charged with transmitting the relevant resolutions to the appropriate United Nations bodies by means of an official memorandum or letter from the Permanent Observer Mission of the League of Arab States in New York, and in accordance with article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Arabic and English versions of resolution 8660, entitled “Israeli aggression against the occupied city of Jerusalem and its people, including the holy Aqsa Mosque and the Shaykh Jarrah neighbourhood”. That resolution was adopted by the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its extraordinary session, which was held via videoconference in Cairo on 11 May 2021 (see enclosure).

In accordance with the instructions of the secretariat of the League of Arab States in that regard, I should be grateful if the present letter and its enclosure could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Maged Abdelfattah **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador
Head of the Observer Mission, New York

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

Resolution 8660, adopted by the Council of the Arab League at the ministerial level at its extraordinary session held via videoconference

Israeli aggression against the occupied city of Jerusalem and its people, including the holy Aqsa Mosque and the Shaykh Jarrah neighbourhood

On Tuesday, 29 Ramadan A.H. 1442 (11 May A.D. 2021), the Council of the League of the Arab States at the ministerial level, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar (current chair of the Council of the League at the ministerial level), convened for an extraordinary session via videoconference at the request of the State of Palestine, which was supported by the States members. At that session, in which the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the heads of delegation and the Secretary-General participated, members discussed Arab and international response to the brutal crimes and acts of aggression committed by Israel against the lives, holy sites and property of the Palestinian people in the occupied city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, including the ongoing brutal Israeli aggression aimed at displacing Palestinians from their homes and property in the Shaykh Jarrah neighbourhood and other neighbourhoods in the city, as well as the barbaric attacks against worshippers at the blessed Aqsa Mosque.

- *Reaffirming* the centrality of the question of Palestine to the entire Arab nation, that occupied East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, is an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, and its complete solidarity with the Palestinian people and strong support for their steadfastness in the occupied city of Jerusalem in response to systematic Israeli policies and practices aimed at Judaizing the city and distorting its Arab identity, displacing its Palestinian Arab population and changing the legal and historical status of the city and its Islamic and Christian holy sites, including the blessed Aqsa Mosque, the first of the two *qiblahs* and the third holiest mosque,
- *Reaffirming* all its resolutions concerning the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, including those adopted at the summit and ministerial levels at its ordinary and extraordinary sessions,
- *Calling* attention to the importance of the efforts that led to the convening of a Security Council meeting on 10 May 2021 to discuss Israeli aggression against Jerusalem and violations of the sanctity of the Aqsa Mosque, a meeting that was convened in response to the initiative of Tunisia, the Arab member of the Security Council, acting in coordination with the State of Palestine and with the support of China, the current Chair of the Security Council, and most member States, and *highlighting* the deliberations that took place at that meeting, in the course of which participants reiterated their commitment to the two-State solution on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions and international terms of reference,

Decides to:

1. *Salute, hail and pay tribute* to the heroic and freeborn Palestinian people of Jerusalem, who remain steadfast in the occupied city of Jerusalem, as they defend, unarmed, the blessed Aqsa Mosque and Arab, Islamic and Christian holy sites and property against the brutal and systematic crimes

and acts of aggression committed by the occupying Israeli forces in the Holy City;

2. *Condemn* unreservedly the crimes perpetrated by the occupying Israeli forces against unarmed Muslim worshipers in the blessed Aqsa Mosque, which have escalated seriously over the past few weeks and days of the holy month of Ramadan, leading to the injury and arrest of hundreds of worshipers and culminating in the storming of the blessed Aqsa Mosque and the violation of its sanctity; *warn* that these attacks and crimes are considered a flagrant act of provocation by the faithful across the Islamic world, and that they threaten to ignite a cycle of violence that will jeopardize security and stability in the region and around the world; and *deplore* strongly the occupying authorities' attempts to undermine freedom of worship at Islamic and Christian holy places in the city of Jerusalem, including attacking defenceless Christian worshipers in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as they performed their religious sacraments;
3. *Condemn* unreservedly the decisions and measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, and its unjust judicial system, as well as the terrorist campaigns organized by Israeli settlers with the support of the occupying army and police, all of which are aimed at displacing the people of occupied Jerusalem, including the families of the Shaykh Jarrah neighbourhood and other areas of the city, as part of an ethnic cleansing campaign sponsored by the occupying Israeli Government that is designed to perpetuate the apartheid regime;
4. *Condemn* unreservedly the broad-scale aggression committed by the Israeli occupiers against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including, in particular, the savage and deliberate bombardment of and use of excessive force against civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip, as a result of which many children and innocent civilians have been killed and wounded; and *call upon* on the international community to take urgent action at all levels, in order to put an end to the reckless disregard displayed by the Israeli occupiers for the lives of Palestinian civilians and to stop the current aggression and prevent its recurrence;
5. *Hold* Israel, the occupying Power, responsible for the consequences of those crimes and actions, which constitute flagrant violations of United Nations resolutions, international law and international humanitarian law; and *call upon* the United Nations and specialized international organizations, including the Security Council, to assume their legal, moral and humanitarian responsibilities, in order to end immediately the Israeli aggression, provide international protection for the Palestinian people and uphold their right to freedom of worship, and maintain security and peace in the region and throughout world;
6. *Urge* member States to take the necessary steps and measures at all levels, including by engaging in intensive diplomatic action, such as writing letters, reaching out to contacts and holding bilateral meetings, in order to protect the city of Jerusalem, defend its Islamic and Christian holy sites, and support the political, social, economic and humanitarian rights of its people;
7. *Establish* an Arab ministerial committee consisting of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Qatar, Egypt, Morocco, the presidency of the Arab summit (in its capacity), the Arab member of the Security Council (in its capacity) and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. This

committee will reach out to the permanent members of the Security Council and other internationally influential countries and urge them to take practical measures aimed at halting illegal Israeli policies and measures in the occupied city of Jerusalem. The Committee will present a report on the outcome of its efforts at an extraordinary session of the Council of the League to be convened for that purpose;

8. *Call upon* the International Criminal Court to proceed with its criminal investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Israel against the defenceless Palestinian people, including the displacement of Palestinians from their homes in the Shaykh Jarrah neighbourhood and other occupied Palestinian areas and neighbourhoods; and *urge* the Court to make available all the material and human resources needed for this investigation and to give the investigation due priority;
9. *Reaffirm* the importance of the historical Hashemite custodianship of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and the significant role that it plays in protecting those sites, maintaining their historical and legal status, and their Arab Islamic and Christian identities; and *reiterate* that the Jerusalem Waqf and Aqsa Mosque Affairs Administration of Jordan is the sole authority entrusted with administering the affairs of the blessed Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif.
10. *Draw attention* to the significant role played by the Al-Quds Committee, which is chaired by Morocco, in defending the Holy City and supporting the resilience of the Palestinian people, as well as to the efforts of the Bayt Mal al-Quds Agency, an affiliate of the Al-Quds Committee;
11. *Instruct* the secretariat of the League to coordinate action with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in order to protect the occupied city of Jerusalem from the systematic policies and attacks of Israel;
12. *Call upon* the Arab Parliament to take immediate action, in concert with parliaments in influential countries, to achieve the objectives of the present resolution;
13. *Instruct* the missions of the League and the councils of Arab ambassadors to launch an intensive diplomatic effort to convey the substance of the present resolution to the capitals of influential countries around the world;
14. *Instruct* the Group of Arab States at the United Nations in New York to initiate consultations and consider various measures with the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly, including possibility of the resuming the tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and other occupied Palestinian territories; and *furthermore instruct* the Group of Arab States in Geneva and Paris to initiate consultations and consider various measures with the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with a view to addressing and stopping the systematic attacks being committed by and the policies of Israel in the occupied city of Jerusalem;
15. *Remain actively seized* of matters relating to the hostile Israeli plans; and *request* the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of the present resolution and submit a report in that regard to the Council of the League at its next session.

(Resolution 8660 — extraordinary session — first meeting — 11 May 2021)