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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-sixth year

Identical letters dated 27 September 2021 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation of the Palestinian civilian population in Occupied Palestine is becoming more critical by the day as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to violate their human rights and breach international law.

Young men are being killed in cold blood.

Children are being abused and brutalized by the hundreds.

Prisoners are being violently tortured, dying of medical neglect, risking their lives on hunger strike.

Families are being broken apart, enduring endless indignities, trauma and grief.

Homes are being seized and demolished, civilians are being rendered homeless and displaced.

Millions are besieged by an illegal, colonial occupation and blockade that is destroying the lives and future of yet another generation.

While the world struggles to resolve the multiple crises that have converged in this era, challenging the health, economies, societies and stability of countries large and small all across the globe, the Palestinian people have an added burden, left to struggle against this decades-long man-made crisis that is depriving them of the fundamental prerequisite for any people to meet such challenges and to persevere and prosper: their right to self-determination.

We ask the Governments and peoples of the world facing the challenges and existential threats of these times, all worsened by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic: how can anyone overcome the crises facing humanity while denied the right to freedom, the right to determine and control their destiny?

It is not possible. No people can thrive deprived of their inalienable human rights, no stability can ever be realized, no prosperity ever sustained. Economic



offerings – and the temporary, artificial calm they create – can neither conceal the reality beneath nor replace the innate human desire for freedom and justice.

Ignoring this reality, glossing over it with slick messaging and rhetoric, will not make it go away. And it is the height of hypocrisy when the leader of Israel, the occupying Power, stands before the United Nations General Assembly and quotes holy scriptures for cynical political purposes, claiming to be enlightened and democratic, claiming to revere human life, claiming moral superiority, while simultaneously ordering the killing of young Palestinian men, the arrest of Palestinian children, the collective punishment of detained and imprisoned Palestinians, the colonization of the Palestinian land and the oppression of the Palestinian people, discriminating against them and violating their every human right. Such cynicism and hypocrisy must not only be called out and rejected, but must be held to account.

Accountability in accordance with international law, including humanitarian, human rights and criminal law, is what is sorely missing in the case of Palestine, and its absence what undeniably emboldens Israel to order its military forces to abuse and take Palestinian lives and to steal and colonize Palestinian land without hesitation, without remorse and without fear of consequences.

It is thus that, the very next day after a killing spree in which Israeli occupying forces murder five young Palestinian men in their homes and villages, the Israeli Prime Minister has the audacity to come before the General Assembly and not only completely ignore the catastrophe that is Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine – which the international community has repeatedly called for an end to and for a just solution to the Palestine question as a whole – but to boast about Israel being a model democracy and light unto the nations.

The miserable reality being endured by the Palestinian people, among them families today grieving and burying their loved ones, starkly contradicts this false and cynical Israeli narrative.

Yesterday, 26 September, Israeli occupying forces raided the village of Burqin, west of Jenin in the occupied West Bank, firing live ammunition at residents, killing two Palestinians and injuring four others. Those killed included a child, Yousef Suboh, age 16, and Osama Yaser Suboh, age 22, who leaves behind along with his devastated family a young fiancée, their future together destroyed by this immoral, inhumane occupation.

Also yesterday, 26 September, Israeli occupying forces raided a home in the village of Biddu, north-west of occupied Jerusalem, and killed in cold blood three Palestinian men: Ahmed Zahran, Mahmoud Hmeidan and Zakaria Badwan. The Israeli occupying forces continued to torment and collectively punish the grieving village, returning today to seal it off, declaring it a “closed military zone”, and arresting several civilians.

Prior to the weekend's deadly assaults, yet another Palestinian was killed in Beita, near Nablus, whose residents continue to stand firmly and valiantly against Israel's illegal colonization attempts. On Friday, 24 September, Mohammed Ali Khabisa, age 28, was killed by an Israeli sniper, who shot him point blank in the head, inflicting loss and grief on yet another family, orphaning yet another Palestinian child – his 8-month-old baby – and bringing the number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces in Beita since August to eight people.

Such use of lethal force against defenceless Palestinian civilians is not the exception, it is the norm and has been for decades, blatantly contradicting the Israeli Prime Minister's insincere allusion to their reverence for human life. Do not be duped. It is time for the international community to stand firm and demand an end to the

crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, including its incessant violation of the right to life.

Moreover, as documented by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in just two weeks this month, from 7 to 20 September, Israeli occupying forces injured at least 568 Palestinians, among them 73 children, in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The majority were injured during civilian protests against Israeli settlement activities, mainly in Beita, which suffered 290 injuries in this period. Israeli occupying forces also continued to raid areas where schools and hospitals are located, recently causing tear gas inhalation to at least 55 students and teachers in Al-Khalil in six schools.

In these same two weeks, around 100 Palestinians were arrested and detained by the Israeli occupying forces, and their numbers continue to rise as Israel persists with its arbitrary detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including at least 200 children, in the most abhorrent conditions. In recent weeks Israel has intensified the collective punishment of the Palestinians it is holding captive, imposing even more punitive measures following the escape of six Palestinians from an Israeli prison, further stoking tensions and unrest.

We reiterate our calls for an end to the systematic abuse of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including medical neglect and deprivation which has already caused the loss of too many lives, including Hussein Masalmah, age 39, who died on 23 September from cancer, after being released from Israeli prison due to his illness, which remained untreated for months while he was in captivity. We also call attention to the Palestinians on hunger strike in protest of their illegal detention by Israel. We reiterate our demands for the release of all Palestinians being illegally detained and imprisoned by the occupying Power.

To hear the Israeli Prime Minister speak would be to believe that Israel is the most humane, liberal, exemplary country, not the colonial occupier that it has been for over 54 years and not the ethno-supremacist State that it has been for over 73 years, where one's ethnicity determines whether their existence will be one of privilege and security or one of torment and insecurity.

With arrogance, he ignores the Palestinian people and the suffering Israel's occupation and apartheid is causing to them deliberately because of what they are: Palestinians, Muslims and Christians, not Jews. In the eyes of Israel, their crime is simply being Palestinians, and for this crime they have been forced to endure constant oppression, humiliation and deprivation of their human rights, human dignity and human security.

This is the undeniable truth: a colonial, apartheid reality exists in Occupied Palestine, created and imposed by Israel for decades and with the support and acquiescence of many countries, who continue to accept the false pretexts and narratives that enable its ethno-supremacy and prop up its illegal occupation and blockade with appeasement and rewards for its crimes, rather than consequences and accountability.

We reiterate that only accountability can ever compel Israel to cease its war crimes and human rights violations and end its colonial occupation and apartheid policies. For all those who believe in human rights and in the rules-based order, it is time to act, swiftly and practically, to ensure respect for international law as the path towards ending this inhumanity and charting the way for the achievement of a just solution that can make Israeli-Palestinian peace, stability and coexistence a reality.

Until that day is realized, we will remain unrelenting in our calls for protection for the Palestinian people, in line with international law, including the Fourth Geneva

Convention, and for measures of accountability aimed at bringing a halt to Israel's violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and compelling its compliance. This must include action by the Security Council to implement its relevant resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and its explicit call on States to distinguish in their dealings between Israel and the territory it has occupied since 1967. Moreover, this must include expediting the International Criminal Court investigation towards holding Israeli war criminals to account and bring an end to this historic injustice.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 731 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 ([A/55/432-S/2000/921](#)) to 24 August 2021 ([A/ES-10/878-S/2021/748](#)) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyadh **Mansour**
Minister
Permanent Observer
