



DIVISION FOR  
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

# Bulletin

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

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## **I. PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*On 1 September, the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People submitted its annual report to the General Assembly. The conclusions and recommendations of the report ([A/76/35](#)) are reproduced below.*

77. In developing its recommendations set out below, the Committee has taken into account the deliberations at Committee and Bureau meetings, briefings received, outreach, international conferences and events involving Member States, civil society organizations and regional organizations.

### **A. Immediate action by the Committee in response to annexation and settlement activities**

78. The Committee expresses concern about the failure of the Government of Israel to halt the creeping annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank, which would constitute a most serious violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions, and would undermine the contiguity of the Palestinian territory and the physical viability of the two-State solution based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine, in accordance with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions, internationally agreed parameters, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative. The Committee calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to halt all such illegal measures and to act towards bringing an end to its illegal occupation, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

79. The Committee supports the Secretary-General's clear position on the question of Palestine, based on international law, countless United Nations resolutions and the search for a just solution and calls for Israel to uphold its obligations under international humanitarian and international human rights law, respect the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem, including for the historic and legal status quo at Aqsa Mosque compound and the right of Muslims to peacefully worship there free from threats, intimidation and violence. The Committee calls on the Secretary-General to continue to utilize his good offices and mediation capacities, as well as on all parties with influence, to act with urgency to de-escalate this volatile situation.

80. The Committee will continue to advocate the resolution of the question of Palestine on the basis of an international framework and against annexation and in support of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence.

81. The Committee notes that any initiative aimed at a just solution to the question of Palestine must, first and foremost, consider the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people, engage the Palestinian leadership, and be based on the two-State solution, according to international law, United Nations resolutions and agreements between the parties. In this context, the Committee notes the concerns expressed by the Palestinian leadership, and the response of the international community, that the bilateral agreements between Israel and some Arab countries did not commit Israel to halting plans to further

extend its sovereignty over Palestinian territory and its people. To this end, the Committee reiterates that annexation of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory is illegal.

82. The Committee expresses concerns at the occupying Power's continued expansion of its illegal settlement network and related infrastructure, including the wall, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem and deep inside the West Bank, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and deemed illegal under international law, as reaffirmed, *inter alia*, in Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#). The Committee calls on Israel to immediately halt all settlement construction and expansion and its ongoing transfer of its population to those settlements as they are unlawful and constitute an obstacle to peace and are destroying the viability of the two-State solution.

83. The Committee expresses its deep concern about the imminent evictions of Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods of occupied East Jerusalem settlements and Bayta village and reiterates its calls for a halt to all illegal Israeli policies and practices, including all settlement activities, home demolitions, evictions, forced displacement and all other acts of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population.

#### **B. Immediate action by the Committee in response to the conflict**

84. The Committee expresses its deep alarm at the dramatic deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially following the escalation of violence in May and continuous acts of provocation and incitement, in particular by Israeli extremists in occupied East Jerusalem. The Committee reminds Israel and Palestinian militants that indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks and failure to distinguish between military and civilian objects, and their use, thereby constitute clear violations of international humanitarian law and may constitute war crimes.

85. The Committee calls on all parties to the May conflict in Gaza and Israel to respect a ceasefire to allow for medical, humanitarian and reconstructions efforts, and for an investigation by the International Criminal Court into the attacks on civilian populations and other gross violations of human rights. It emphasizes the need to address the root causes of the violence to avoid the next round of violence with further pain and suffering for civilians on all sides and to advance the realization of a just solution.

#### **C. Immediate action by the Committee in response to postponement of elections in Palestine**

86. The Committee regrets the postponement of parliamentary and presidential elections in the State of Palestine and underlines that those democratic elections are a crucial factor for the full realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. To this end, the Committee urges the Palestinian leadership to announce new dates for holding the elections and urges the Security Council to ensure that Israel guarantees the holding of democratic Palestinian elections throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

#### **D. Action taken with the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council**

87. The Committee urges the Security Council and the General Assembly to ensure the implementation of the long-standing parameters for peace affirmed in relevant United Nations resolutions, including Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and Assembly resolution [74/11](#) (2019). The Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit his reports to the Council on the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) in written format and, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the resolution, to include references to implementation of the provision by Member States. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Committee also calls upon the Council to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of relevant Council resolutions, including the use of sanctions on States and private entities violating Council resolutions.

88. The Committee further urges the Security Council and the Middle East Quartet to revitalize the stalled peace process in view of resuming meaningful negotiations towards the achievement of a just and peaceful solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The international community has an abiding responsibility towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all aspects, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions and must act without delay.

89. The Committee deplores the use of excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, including during the protests in the Gaza Strip in 2018 and 2019 and during the 11-day conflict in May 2021 and reiterates its call for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory ([A/HRC/40/74](#)). The Commission was mandated by the Human Rights Council to investigate violations committed in the proximity of the fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip during those protests. The Committee also calls for an end to all violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including arbitrary arrests and detentions, restrictions to freedom of movement, discrimination and collective punishment, as well as the denial of the rights to self-determination and independence.

90. The Committee is of the view that only full respect for the human and collective rights of the Palestinian people will ensure a lasting and just resolution to the question of Palestine. In support of justice and respect for the rule of law and human rights that are indispensable for peace, the Committee welcomes Human Rights Council resolution [S-30/1](#) for an independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate all violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and international human rights law since 1 April 2021.

91. The Committee urges Member States and the Organization to call upon Israel, as the occupying Power, to respect its obligations under international law to protect civilians. Further to the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution [ES-10/20](#), the Committee emphasizes the need for the implementation of an international protection mechanism that can credibly ensure the safety and welfare of Palestinian civilians. The Committee calls upon the international community to shift from a humanitarian to a human

rights framework in addressing the plight of the Palestinian people, and demands also an end to the 14-year Israeli air, land and sea blockade of Gaza and the lifting of all closures under Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#).

#### **E. Advocacy and outreach with the international community and civil society**

92. The Committee will continue to mobilize the international community to stop Israel's annexation plan and will exert efforts to contribute to the achievement of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders and is encouraged by the numerous statements in support of international legality by members of the international community, including the Arab world and international civil society. Any comprehensive resolution of the conflict will require a regional approach, such as that offered by the Arab Peace Initiative. The Committee calls upon regional organizations, such as the European Union, LAS and OIC, to take on a more politically active role in mediating an end to the conflict.

93. The Committee calls upon the international donors to fulfil without delay all pledges to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance, the reconstruction process and economic recovery, which are essential to alleviate the distress of Palestinians, including women and children, who face additional and gender-specific challenges that need to be addressed through targeted actions. It stresses the urgency of sufficient and predictable funding to UNRWA to ensure its vital humanitarian and development assistance to the Palestine refugees.

#### **F. Action by Member States and regional organizations**

94. The Committee emphasizes the importance of the acknowledgement by Israel of the Nakba and its impact upon the Palestinian people as a necessary requirement for a viable and lasting peace. Palestine refugees should be treated as dispossessed nationals of a country – the State of Palestine – rather than as stateless refugees. It strongly advocates the right to return as well as just compensation for Palestine refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#).

95. The Committee deems unilateral decisions by Member States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the transfer of embassies in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as null and void, as they are in violation of Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [476 \(1980\)](#) and [478 \(1980\)](#). The Committee calls upon Member States to rescind those decisions and reiterates that the historic status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem must be respected and that the international community shares the responsibility to preserve the legal, demographic and historical multicultural and multireligious character and status of the city.

96. The Committee underscores the responsibility of States, private entities and corporations not to contribute to grave Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, including with respect to their activities in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. It welcomes efforts by Governments, parliamentarians and civil society actors to sanction support, including economic, for illegal Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

97. The Committee calls upon Member States to implement the relevant obligations under international law, including as set out in paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), in which the Council called upon Member States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.

98. The Committee looks forward to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights on the effects of annexation, as requested by the Human Rights Council in paragraph 16 of its resolution [43/31](#) on 23 June 2020. The Committee expresses appreciation for the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and his reports submitted to the Human Rights Council.

99. As the international community embarks on renewed efforts to restart meaningful negotiations within a credible peace process on the basis of the longstanding international parameters for a just solution, the Committee commits to continue its outreach to key stakeholders with influence on the question of Palestine and to offer support for initiatives, including by the Middle East Quartet, with a view to holding an international peace conference leading to a two-State solution, as highlighted in the 23 March 2021 statement of the Middle East Quartet envoys. The Committee will continue to encourage all supporters of the two-State solution to assist the parties to resume negotiations towards the achievement of a peaceful settlement in line with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

#### **G. Support action in response to the coronavirus disease pandemic**

100. The Committee expresses concern about the unprecedented spread of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory and commends the stringent measures adopted by the Government of Palestine to contain its effects throughout the region.

101. The Committee draws the attention of the international community to the dire socioeconomic situation, the deteriorating living conditions of Palestinians in the occupied territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip, as well as to the predicament of the Palestinian Government, due to the twin combination of the adverse impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing Israeli occupation and creeping annexation policies.

102. The Committee echoes the concern of the international community about the way in which Israeli authorities are rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine, disregarding their obligations as the occupying Power to ensure public health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Committee calls upon Israel to immediately comply with its duties under international humanitarian law by ensuring the provision of vaccines for the Palestinian population under its control in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as to Palestinian prisoners and detainees held in Israeli jails.



## **H. Action by the Secretariat and other United Nations entities**

103. The Committee notes with appreciation the contribution of the Division for Palestinian Rights in support of its mandate and requests the Division to continue its substantive and secretariat support for all aspects of its mandate. The Committee also highlights the growing importance of cooperation among developing countries and regional and subregional organizations within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation for sharing replicable experiences towards the achievement of self-determination and independence.

104. The Committee encourages the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue with efforts to disseminate information on the question of Palestine by continue broadening outreach and promoting multilingualism, with a special emphasis on Arabic, on its website and social media platforms. It also requests the Division to continue to implement projects, including capacity-building for officials of the State of Palestine, that are aimed at further promoting the Committee's mandate.

105. The Committee requests the continuation of the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications, which has made an important contribution to informing the media and the public.

106. The Committee intends to continue to work closely with other United Nations actors and entities, including the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and UNRWA, to synergize efforts in fields of common concern and uphold the permanent responsibility of the Organization towards the question of Palestine until it is justly resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with international law. The Committee wishes to express its deep appreciation to OIC and other partners for the contribution of extrabudgetary resources and their active participation in its conferences and events.

107. The Committee will continue to promote inclusivity and gender balance in all its activities, including its capacity-building programme for the civil servants of the State of Palestine, and encourages a full utilization of online capacity-building opportunities, especially in the context of COVID-related travel restrictions.

## **II. ILO HOLDS MINISTERIAL MEETING TO SUPPORT THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY**

*On 7 September, the International Labor Organisation issued the following [press release](#).*

Within the framework of the ILO's support for the first Palestinian National Employment Strategy, which was launched in March 2021, and in response to requests by the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the Arab Group, the ILO's Regional Office for Arab States will convene, in cooperation with the Arab Labour Organization and the Palestinian Ministry of Labour, a donor meeting in March 2022, to highlight key aspects of the strategy and secure resources for its implementation. The donor meeting will also fall in line with a call



by the 45th Session of the Arab Labour Conference in 2018 to hold a donor meeting to support employment in the OPT.

In order to introduce key aspects of the strategy and the aims of the donor conference, the ILO, in cooperation with the Arab Labour Organization and the Palestinian Ministry of Labour, held an introductory ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the 47th Arab Labour Conference in Cairo.

During the ministerial meeting, the ILO also introduced the Global Call to Action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, adopted by the International Labour Conference in June.

The ministerial meeting opened with addresses by the Director General of the Arab Labour Organization Fayez Al-Mutairi, ILO Regional Director for Arab States Ruba Jaradat, and Palestinian Minister of Labour, Nasri Abu Jaish. The Palestinian Ministry of Labour also presented an outline of the National Employment Strategy, and the ILO outlined the funding needs required to support implementation of the strategy.

ILO Regional Director Jaradat said during the ministerial meeting that the Palestinian labour market has been fragile for decades, and has enjoyed little flexibility in the face of frequent closures of the OPT, workplace closures and the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2020, the Territory's GDP contracted by 11.5 percent, and the bleak economic situation was reflected in the labour market as overall unemployment rates rose to 25.9 percent. The already low labour force participation rate fell by 3.4 percentage points to 40.9 per cent. Overall, the equivalent of 161,000 jobs were lost in 2020 – equal to nearly twice the global and regional rates, Jaradat said. Women's participation in the labour force also decreased by 1.9 percentage points to 16.1 percent, which is among the lowest rates in the world. Young graduates have also been affected and many have lost their foothold in the labour market. More than a quarter of Palestinians in the OPT – 1.4 million individuals – live in poverty.

Based on the priority areas identified by the Palestinian National Employment Strategy, the donor meeting next year will discuss securing the required funding to support employment in the OPT in ten key areas: strengthening the labour market information system, supporting enhanced public employment services, improving labour inspection and addressing informality, linking social protection to stimulation of the labour market, strengthening the institutions and structures of social dialogue and social security, strengthening technical and vocational education and training systems in line with labour market needs, improving the business environment, promoting growth and creating job opportunities in priority sectors, supporting entrepreneurship, and supporting local production.

The Palestinian National Employment Strategy 2021-2025 is the first comprehensive strategy adopted in the Arab States region since the beginning of the global pandemic. It reflects a strong national tripartite commitment to support recovery and improve future employment prospects through promoting inclusive private sector development and job creation, better skills and greater employability, better social protection coverage for all workers, and social dialogue.

Jaradat also urged all countries in the Arab region to implement the Global Call to Action for a Human-Centred Recovery, leaving no one behind. The Call to Action prioritizes the creation of decent jobs for all and addresses the inequalities caused by the crisis.

“There is no doubt that heading this Call to Action will accelerate sustainable recovery in the region if governments, in cooperation with social partners, make the necessary efforts,” she said.

### **III. OIC CONDEMNS ABUSE OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS IN ISRAELI PRISONS**

*On 12 September, the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation issued the following [statement](#).*

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned the measures and attacks against Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli occupation forces, affirming its permanent support for them in order to convey their messages and support their right to freedom, justice and dignity.

The OIC General Secretariat called on the international community to intervene in order to pressure Israel, the occupying power, to stop these arbitrary measures and punishment practices against Palestinian prisoners, and to ensure their treatment in accordance with the rules of international law and international humanitarian law.

### **IV. UN WOMEN, NATIONAL ACTORS IDENTIFY PRIORITIES TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

*On 20 September, UN Women issued the following [press release](#).*

More stepped up support and resources are needed to boost efforts aiming to end gender-based violence against women and girls in Palestine, according to key stakeholders from the Palestinian government and civil society. The key stakeholders recommended allocating more human and material resources to fight GBV and help survivors, including the provision of well trained and properly equipped teams capable of dealing with women and girls in need of such services in various areas of Palestine.

The recommendation came at the conclusion of a consultation workshop that was convened in Ramallah by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and UN Women on 8 September 2021 with the aim of identifying priorities related to eliminating violence against women and girls in Palestine.

The consultation focused on localizing the global effort to achieve gender equality in accordance with the call by Generation Equality Forum (GEF), launched in March 2021 in Mexico and culminated in Paris in July 2021. It followed the State of Palestine’s joining GEF’s Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence and its adoption of the Essential Services Package as part of the national action plan to implement commitments towards enhancing services to women and girl survivors and victims of violence.

Participants in the consultation workshop, who included representatives of the Prime Ministry, various government ministries and departments, the judiciary, civil society organizations, the Prosecutor General's Office, police, universities, unions, UN agencies, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), recommended a set of top priorities for inclusion in the Action Coalition's action plan to address GBV.

Participants agreed violence against women should be considered a top national priority in view of the high number of reported cases. According to the 2019 national violence survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 29 per cent of women, or nearly one in three, has experienced psychological, physical, sexual, social or economic violence by their husbands at least once during the preceding 12 months. Also of concern, 61 per cent of victims reported that they have never told anyone, such as a friend, a family member or a neighbour, about the abuse. In line with this, the so-called "honour killing" is a prevailing phenomenon in the Palestinian society.

The participants in the workshop emphasized the importance of creating protection lines for women, as well as communicating with the media in various ways to reach a unified discourse regarding women's issues, highlighting the need for a strong national referral system and making available health and counselling services to women and girls, with a focus on those from most marginalized areas.

In addition, they underlined the need to provide economic support for women victims and survivors of violence, and called for building a national database for all actors working on the main areas of the essential services package, including protection, health and justice and policing services.

Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr. Amal Hamad affirmed the government's keenness to fight violence against women and girls and ensure that their rights are safeguarded.

"We all are keen to create a violence-free environment and that our women enjoy the freedoms that are guaranteed by Palestinian legislation and documents, including the Independence Document, active Palestinian laws and relevant international treaties and conventions as well as the Sustainable Development Goals indicators," Dr. Hamad said.

UN Women Special Representative in Palestine, Ms. Maryse Guimond underlined the importance of addressing the rights and needs of women victims and survivors of violence, which requires having accessible multi-sectoral services that are developed within a complementary approach that brings together all relevant stakeholders to end violence against women and girls in Palestine.

"To bridge the gap in responding to gender-based violence and addressing the needs of violence survivors, quality multi-sectoral services should be in place and involve the health, justice and social sectors," Ms. Guimond said.

## **V. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL ALARMED BY SECURITY INCIDENTS IN LEBANON**

*On 20 September, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) issued the following [statement](#) by Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini.*

I am very alarmed by two major security developments that happened in Lebanon over the weekend.

On the morning of 19 September, protestors from the temporary housing units near Nahr el-Bared refugee camp broke into the UNRWA construction site office, causing severe damage to the premises and to seven Agency vehicles. No one was injured. This incident came in the aftermath of a series of thefts to our installations in the camp over the last few weeks. Palestinian faction leaders condemned the incident and the thefts and pledged their support to ensure these incidents would not occur again.

On the same day, in Ein El Hilweh camp, in the south of Lebanon, fighting between Fatah and Jund al-Sham armed factions erupted, and fighters entered four UNRWA schools. Seven people were injured because of the fighting, including two civilians in Saida. Palestinian faction leaders have condemned the incident and have committed to investigate it.

I strongly condemn these incidents, which severely undermine the neutrality and inviolability of our premises and put at serious risk the protection and security of Palestine refugees, UNRWA personnel and property. UNRWA is requesting that all parties commit to respect the Agency's neutrality and the inviolability of its installations at all times and to take all measures necessary to ensure that incidents to the contrary are not repeated.

I continue to be extremely concerned about the deteriorating situation in Lebanon as a whole and its significant impact on Palestine refugees who were already among the most vulnerable communities. UNRWA is a front-row witness to the immense needs and the high level of poverty among Palestine refugees in Lebanon. The Agency is sparing no effort to advocate for additional support to the Palestine refugee community in Lebanon.

In order to continue to deliver critical services, UNRWA needs both additional financial support and full respect for the safety of its personnel as well as for the inviolability of its installations at all times.

## **VI. OIC CONDEMNS ASSAULT ON FIVE PALESTINIAN YOUTHS**

*On 26 September, the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation issued the following [statement](#).*

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned vehemently the crime that has resulted in the murder of five Palestinian citizens in al-Quds and Jenin at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces. It deplored the act as a further extension of the policies pursued

by the Israeli occupation power, in flagrant defiance of international humanitarian law and international instruments.

Holding Israel fully responsible for the dangerous risks of this escalation, the OIC called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in providing international protection to the Palestinian people and pressurizing Israel to cease its incessant violations and aggression against them.

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## **VII. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR BRIEFS SECURITY COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2334 (2016)**

*On 29 September, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, on behalf of the Secretary-General, presented the 19<sup>th</sup> report on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2334](#) (2016) covering the period from 12 June to 27 September. The text of the presentation is reproduced below.*

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I will devote this briefing to presenting his 19th report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), covering the period from 12 June to 27 September.

Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) calls on Israel to “immediately and completely cease all settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” and to “fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard.”

During the reporting period, there were no new settlement housing plans advanced, approved or tendered.

On 2 July, some 50 Israeli settler families left the settlement outpost of Evyatar, illegal also under Israeli law, following an agreement with the Israeli Government that the Israeli military would reestablish a presence at the site and a land survey would be conducted to determine land status.

Demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures continued across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Citing the absence of Israeli-issued building permits, which are almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain, 302 structures were demolished or

seized by Israeli authorities or demolished by their owners to avoid heavy Israeli demolition fees. These actions displaced 433 people, including 251 children and 102 women.

On 7 July, Israeli authorities demolished some 30 structures, of which 17 were provided as humanitarian assistance, in the Bedouin community of Humsa Al Bqai'a, in the Jordan Valley.

On 14 July, Israeli authorities confiscated at least 49 structures in the Bedouin community of Ras al Tin in the Ramallah governorate. As a result, 84 people, including 53 children and 14 women, were displaced.

On 11 August, the Jerusalem Local Affairs Court froze the demolition of several dozen structures in the al-Bustan section of the Silwan neighborhood until 10 February 2022, pending ongoing planning discussions.

On 2 August, Israel's Supreme Court held a hearing to consider an appeal request by four Palestinian families facing forced eviction in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in the East Jerusalem. The judges made a proposal, which was not accepted, and the hearing was adjourned with no date to reconvene. There are currently some 970 Palestinians facing eviction in East Jerusalem.

Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) calls for "immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including all acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation and destruction."

Unfortunately, daily violence continued. Overall, 27 Palestinians, including two women and five children, were killed by Israeli security forces (ISF) during demonstrations, clashes, security operations, and other incidents. 4,814 Palestinians, including ten women and 530 children, were injured. Of these, 3,369 injuries are due to tear gas inhalation, 205 were injured by live ammunition. One Israeli soldier was killed by Palestinians, and 41 Israelis, including seven women and one child, were injured by Palestinians in clashes, rock and Molotov cocktail throwing, attacks and other incidents.

Beita village in the occupied West Bank remained a flashpoint, where demonstrations against the nearby Israeli settlement outpost of Evyatar often escalated into clashes between Palestinians and Israeli Security Forces. Since June, four Palestinians, including one child, have been shot and killed, and at least 3,530 others injured by Israeli forces during these clashes, 2,722 by tear gas inhalation as a result of Israeli security forces activities.

On 16 June during protests in Beita, ISF shot a 16-year old boy, who later died from his injuries. During a demonstration on 24 September, a Palestinian man was killed in an exchange of fire with ISF.

On 24 June, Palestinian political activist Nizar Banat died following an arrest operation by Palestinian security forces (PSF) in Hebron, during which he was reportedly beaten severely.

Banat's death sparked several demonstrations since late June leading to dozens of arrests; all were subsequently released. On 27 September, a Palestinian military court held its first hearing for the 14 officers from the PSF charged with the death of Nizar Banat.

On 18 July, three Israelis, including a one-year-old child, were injured by stones thrown by Palestinians near Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City.

On 23 July, ISF shot killed a 17-year old Palestinian during clashes in Nabi Saleh. ISF stated that the boy was throwing stones.

On 28 July, an 11-year-old Palestinian boy was killed in Beit Ummar after ISF fired at the car he was travelling in with his father and siblings. The next day, ISF shot and killed a Palestinian man amid clashes during the boy's funeral.

On 16 August, four Palestinians were killed and another injured in an exchange of fire with ISF during an Israeli search operation in the Jenin Refugee Camp.

On 24 August, Israeli forces shot and killed a 15-year-old Palestinian boy in the Balata Refugee Camp, east of Nablus. According to Israeli officials the boy had been preparing to throw a large rock at ISF personnel from a rooftop. However, witnesses disputes the ISF account.

On 31 August, ISF shot and killed a 39-year-old Palestinian man in Beit Ur, west of Ramallah, under unclear circumstances. The ISF announced it will open an investigation into the killing.

On 10 September, following a call from Fatah and Hamas, demonstrations linked to six escaped prisoners were held across the occupied West Bank and Gaza, with several escalating into clashes with ISF resulting in 183 Palestinians injured.

On 26 September, Israeli forces conducted a search and arrest operation targeting what Israel said were Hamas operatives in several locations in the West Bank. Five Palestinians were killed, including a 16-year old boy, and seven others were injured during exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and Palestinians. Two Israeli security personnel were also injured.

In Gaza, Palestinian militants launched five rockets and numerous incendiary balloons into Israel, injuring four civilians, including one child, all while running to shelter, and causing dozens of fires. In response, Israeli forces carried out 55 air strikes on what they said were military targets in the Strip, resulting in damage but no injuries.

On 21 August in Gaza, thousands of people participated in a demonstration at the perimeter fence. Hundreds hurled stones and, reportedly, improvised explosive devices, towards ISF, who responded with live ammunition and tear gas. 41 Palestinians were injured, including 24 children. Two Palestinians, including a boy, subsequently died of their injuries. One Israeli soldier was critically injured, and later died of his wounds. On 23 August, Israeli forces carried out eight airstrikes against what Israel said were Hamas military targets.



Across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, settler-related violence continued, including reports of armed settlers carrying out attacks against Palestinians in proximity to Israel security forces.

On 17 August, a 15-year-old Palestinian boy was attacked in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, during which a group of Israeli settlers kidnapped the boy and brutally assaulted him.

A total of 102 attacks occurred in which Israeli settlers or other civilians injured 36 Palestinians or reportedly damaged property. Palestinians perpetrated 193 attacks against Israeli settlers and other civilians in the occupied West Bank, including the throwing of stones, Molotov cocktails and pipe bombs at civilian vehicles, resulting in 27 injuries and damage to property.

Again, on 21 August, PSF arrested 23 people in Ramallah for their participation in a planned demonstration. On numerous occasions, Palestinian Security Forces restricted the freedoms of expression and assembly on demonstrators and used force, including beating them with batons and indiscriminately firing tear gas and stun grenades. Women present in the demonstrations reported sexual harassment and gender-based threats on social media afterwards.

During the reporting period, ISF arrested two prominent human rights defenders, one in Ramallah and the other in Bethlehem. ISF also raided and searched three Palestinian civil society organizations located in Area A of the occupied West Bank, closed one for six months for undisclosed security reasons.

Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) calls for the parties to refrain from acts of provocation, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric. Some Palestinian and Israeli officials continued to use such rhetoric during the reporting period.

On 27 June, an Israeli Member of Knesset challenged the status quo on the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, stating “Our demand is full sovereignty, raising the Israeli flag and expelling all Waqf elements seeking to harm us.”

On 20 June, a senior Hamas official said that “neither words nor messages” were needed to resolve the status of Jerusalem, and that the movement would “arrive in Jerusalem with the help of barrages of hundreds of rockets fired at Tel Aviv”.

Resolution 2334 (2016) reiterated calls by the Middle East Quartet for “affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse negative trends on the ground that are imperiling the two-State solution.”

On 13 September, the UN launched a cash assistance programme to aid nearly 100,000 needy families in Gaza. The effort is supported by the State of Qatar with 40 million US Dollars provided over four months.

In addition, some USD 45 million of the requested USD 95 million dollars has been raised for the UN's humanitarian flash appeal and nearly USD 55 million has been mobilized in support of the humanitarian response more broadly.

In Gaza, Israel eased access restrictions imposed during the May escalations. In addition to key humanitarian assistance, access was progressively facilitated for commercial goods and materials for international projects, including allowing some 3,000 tons of rebar outside the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism with nearly 20,000 trucks entering Gaza through Kerem Shalom in the reporting period. The entry of materials and trade has since returned to pre-escalation levels.

Moreover, on 1 September, Israel announced it would increase entry permits for traders and business-people from 2,000 to 7,000, expand the Gaza fishing zone from 12 to 15 nautical miles, allow the entry of more goods and equipment, and increase the supply of fresh water to Gaza by five million cubic meters.

Israel continued to deduct an amount of the clearance revenues from Israel to the PA equivalent in size to what Israel calculates is paid by the PA to Palestinian security prisoners and the families of those killed in the context of attacks.

The PA continues to face a growing fiscal crisis that severely impacts its ability to cover minimum expenditures, including Government salaries and payments to needy households.

Following a meeting between President Abbas and Defense Minister Gantz on 30 August, the first such meeting between both sides in years, Israel said it would provide a USD 150 million loan to the PA to be repaid through commensurate deductions from the clearance revenues. Israel also announced plans to issue ID cards for thousands of undocumented foreign nationals in the occupied West Bank and grant an additional 15,000 permits for Palestinian workers to enter Israel, along with an additional 1,000 building permits for Palestinians in Area C of the West Bank.

On 6 September, the Palestinian Authority announced that they will hold local council elections on 11 December 2021 for all villages and municipalities in category C, the smallest 388 of the approximately 450 councils overall. On 27 September, the PA announced that the remaining local elections will be held on 23 March 2022, including for 11 local councils in Gaza pending an agreement for them to take place in this second phase.

On 16 August, UNRWA schools opened for over 300,000 girls and boys across the OPT. However, UNRWA is once again struggling to obtain funding to operate in the last months of the year. A disruption in UNRWA services will deny hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, namely young people, across the region the essential rights of a dignified life: education, health, food and housing.

In its resolution 2334 (2016), the Security Council called upon all States “to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.” No such steps were taken during the reporting period.

Resolution 2334 (2016) also called upon “all parties to continue, inter alia, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations.”

On 15 July, the Envoys of the Middle East Quartet met virtually to discuss the latest developments on the ground and agreed to remain engaged on the matter and to chart a way forward.

On 2 September, the Presidents of Egypt, Jordan and Palestine, met in Cairo. All three leaders pledged to work together to resume peace negotiations, in accordance with international legitimacy, under the auspices of the Quartet.

In conjunction with International Day of Peace on 21 September, Palestinian and Israeli peace organizations hosted several events to promote the establishment of a long-term solution to the conflict and warn about the costs of maintaining the status quo.

In closing, allow me to share the Secretary-General’s observations concerning the implementation of the provisions of UN resolution 2334 during the reporting period.

I reiterate that all settlements are illegal under international law and that they undermine the prospect of achieving a viable two-State solution in line with UN resolutions, international law and prior agreements. The pause in new advancements and tenders of plans for housing units in settlements observed during this reporting period must become permanent.

I remain deeply concerned by the continued demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures, which have included internationally funded humanitarian projects. I urge Israel to cease demolitions and evictions, in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law, and to approve plans that would enable these communities to build legally and address their development needs.

I am deeply troubled by the continued loss of life and serious injuries in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). I am appalled that children continue to be victims of violence. I reiterate that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life. Pertinent authorities must carry out thorough, independent, impartial and prompt investigations into all instances of possible excessive use of force and hold perpetrators accountable.

I am deeply concerned by the continued settler-related violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Israel, as the occupying power, has an obligation to ensure the safety and security of the Palestinian population and to investigate such attacks. I underscore that all perpetrators of violence must be held accountable and swiftly brought to justice.

The launching of indiscriminate rockets and incendiary devices towards Israeli population centers violates international law and must stop.

I would like to reiterate that the fate of two Israeli civilians and the bodies of two Israel Defense Forces soldiers held by Hamas in Gaza remains an important humanitarian concern.

I call upon Hamas to provide information on their status, as required by international humanitarian law. I also remain deeply concerned by the continued Israeli practice of holding the bodies of Palestinians. I call upon Israel to return withheld bodies to their families, in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law.

The death of Nizar Banat while in the custody of PSF is unacceptable. I call on the Palestinian Authority to ensure that his death and all allegations of use of disproportionate force against protestors by PSF are investigated and those responsible held accountable.

All arrests of human rights defenders, journalists and activists on charges that interfere with their exercise of fundamental freedoms of expression must cease.

I welcome Qatar's generous contribution to support vulnerable families and improve the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. The UN will continue to work closely with the Palestinian Authority and partners, including Egypt, to solidify the ceasefire, allow the entry of urgent humanitarian assistance and stabilize the situation in Gaza.

While materials for humanitarian assistance have entered Gaza more regularly, predictable access for materials, necessary for stability and economic recovery, remains a key challenge. All materials required to implement the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan and the May 2021 Flash Appeal should be allowed into Gaza. All parties must facilitate unimpeded access to humanitarian relief.

UN and INGO humanitarian staff must also be able to enter and exit Gaza on a regular basis. Hamas must cease practices that hinder the delivery of crucial humanitarian assistance.

A recent assessment, by UN Women, of the impact of the May hostilities has highlighted the importance of addressing the protection needs of women and children in Gaza. I encourage support to UN partners to continue to offer gender-based-violence (GBV) related services.

The PA's finances continue to be of serious concern. In addition to the severe impact of the occupation on the economy, Israelis and Palestinians should urgently resolve the impasse over the prisoner payments and the other fiscal files. The scope of the private banking sector to lend to the PA is now at its limit. I encourage donors to provide urgent, support to the PA.

I welcome recent high-level contacts between Israeli and Palestinian officials and steps by the Israeli Government to ease the economic pressure on the Palestinian Authority and encourage their further expansion. I encourage both Parties to take urgent steps that are necessary to stabilize the Palestinian economy and strengthen the Palestinian institutions. I also urge the implementation of existing agreements by both sides. The next meeting of the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee can examine how outstanding issues can be addressed by the Parties, with the support of the donor community and the UN.

I reiterate the UN's gratitude to all donors who continue to support UNRWA. I urge Member States, to sustain the funding levels to UNRWA programme budget of past years

and advance disbursements of funds as much as possible to avoid a disruption of essential services and humanitarian aid across the OPT. We must provide the Agency with adequate resources to fulfill the mandate it was given by the General Assembly. Investing in UNRWA remains an indispensable investment in regional stability and support for the goal of Middle East peace.

Crucially, Gaza requires political solutions that will see a focus on working towards advancing intra-Palestinian unity, lifting the debilitating closures in Gaza, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), and, ultimately, returning to a peace process that will end the occupation and create a viable two-State solution.

Palestinian unity is crucial to advancing a two-state solution. It is therefore critical that Egyptian-led intra-Palestinian reconciliation efforts continue. The UN stands firm in its support of these efforts. The holding of elections in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza would be a crucial step towards Palestinian unity, giving renewed legitimacy to national institutions, including a democratically elected Parliament and Government in Palestine. I encourage the Palestinian Authority to resume the election process as soon as possible.

I am encouraged that many Israelis and Palestinians remain committed to achieving a two State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace despite the significant challenges. We in the international community must support the civil society organisations that continue to work tirelessly to build trust and advance the prospects for peace.

In closing, while I am encouraged by the recent engagement of senior Israeli and Palestinian officials, we must continue our efforts to address the worrying situation on the ground, including reversing negative trends across the OPT and stabilizing the fragile situation in Gaza. We must reenergize efforts now to establish a legitimate political horizon that will end the occupation in line with relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements in pursuit of achieving the vision of the two States – Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian State – living side by side in peace and security within secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

I once again urge Israelis, Palestinians, regional States and the broader international community to take practical steps that will enable the parties to re-engage on the path to peace. I will continue to actively engage in advancing these efforts with my counterparts in the Middle East Quartet, key regional partners and Israeli and Palestinian leaders.