

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 27 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chair of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the General Secretariat for the open debate of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, which was held on 25 April 2022 (see annex).

It is requested that the present letter and its annex be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Munir Akram



Annex to the letter dated 27 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation General Secretariat at the open debate of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question 25 April 2022

The dire situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is getting inexorably worse and worse as the days pass. Reports, in fact, have documented the killing of 47 Palestinians since the beginning of the current year, including 18 people, among them women and children, in the first half of this holy month of Ramadan, by the Israeli occupation forces. Hundreds of others have been injured by the occupation forces and extremist Israeli settlers who continue to attack Palestinian civilians and their property.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is alarmed by the deteriorating situation in occupied East Jerusalem, which recently witnessed, once again, the escalation of Israeli aggression, incitement and violations against the Aqsa Mosque by fanatic Jewish settler groups and Israeli occupation forces. These violent attacks in the Aqsa Mosque and its courtyards of the Haram al-Sharif resulted in injuries to more than 160 defenceless Palestinian worshippers and the detention of 500 others by the occupation forces and sharply heightened tensions, threatening further destabilization.

OIC stresses that these provocative actions cannot be tolerated. They harm and provoke the feelings of the entire Islamic nation across the globe and threaten to ignite a dangerous religious conflict that would jeopardize stability and fuel violence in the region and beyond, with untold consequences.

OIC reaffirms that the historical and legal status quo at the holy sites in East Jerusalem must be maintained and respected, including at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif. It calls upon international actors and bodies, including the Security Council, to take urgent action to stop these assaults and provocations and de-escalate the situation, ensure protection for Palestinian civilians and enforce measures of accountability to ensure justice for the horrific crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people.

Israel's extensive land expropriation, settlement construction and support for and complicity in settlers' acts of provocation, violence and terrorism against Palestinian civilians, raiding of their towns and vandalizing their property, crops and agricultural fields also continue unabated, in grave violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and numerous relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

Such heinous and illegal acts constitute a serious challenge to the will of the international community and the credibility of the political efforts to realize the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders and require diligent and decisive action by the Security Council on the Palestinian question, the longest-standing item on the Council's agenda.

In the same vein, many international reports, including the recent report issued last February by Amnesty International, have documented and revealed the true extent of Israel's apartheid policies inflicted on the Palestinian people, who are systematically and constantly deprived of their basic human rights through Israeli acts of oppression, segregation, exclusion, discrimination, occupation and ethnic

cleansing. We forewarn, in this regard, that such illegal acts, if left unchecked, would further embolden Israel, the occupying Power, to persist with these odious crimes, depriving the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights and obstructing the realization of a just, lasting and peaceful solution to this injustice.

In closing, OIC reaffirms that peace and justice require accountability for human rights violations and war crimes. Ultimately, this requires that all relevant international actors, including the Security Council, urgently undertake a constructive and effective role to revive hopes and prospects for peace and justice. To that end, this august body is invited to engage in a multilaterally sponsored peace process aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace that will end Israel's prolonged illegal occupation of the Palestinian land and oppression of the Palestinian people and lead to the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and to the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, alongside a just solution for the Palestine refugees in line with General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#).

OIC urges the Security Council to act forthwith to advance the realization of such a just solution and reaffirm its commitment to support and cooperate with all credible efforts for these noble goals.
