



DIVISION FOR
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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

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*The Bulletin can be found in the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) on the Internet at:
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I. SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORTS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 76/83, on 3 October, the Secretary-General issued the following [report](#) (A/77/493) covering the period from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022. The conclusions and recommendations are reproduced below.

71. The establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan amount to the transfer by Israel of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies, which is prohibited under international humanitarian law, as consistently confirmed by the competent United Nations organs, including the International Court of Justice.¹ It may also amount to a war crime.²

72. Settlement of titles constitutes an irreversible act of sovereignty by a permanent regime and subverts the principle that occupation is inherently temporary.³ Ongoing action in this regard in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is illegal under international law and increases the risk of illegal appropriation of property and of possible forcible transfer.⁴

73. The steady increase in violence by settlers with the acquiescence and support of Israeli security forces, and the continuing impunity for such acts highlight the unwillingness of the Israeli authorities to uphold its obligations as the occupying Power to ensure as far as possible public order and life and protect the Palestinian population against all acts or threats of violence. Growing instances of Israeli security forces using force in the context of settler attacks against Palestinians, or jointly using force, including firearms, in the same incident is making distinction in violence increasingly difficult to discern.

74. There was an almost total failure to ensure accountability for apparent unlawful killing of Palestinians, including in instances that raise concerns of extrajudicial executions and wilful killing. This is indicative of the climate of impunity which prevails with respect to Israeli security forces excessive force against Palestinians, including in the contexts of settlement.

75. Systematic demolitions of Palestinian homes, based on discriminatory laws and policies, are ongoing and result in forced evictions: a gross violation of human rights.⁵ Forced evictions resulting from demolitions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are a key factor in the creation of a coercive environment. They have a negative impact on a wide range of human rights and increase the risk of forcible transfer.

76. Outposts, including farms, play a vital role in limiting Palestinian pastureland, including on privately-owned land, and effectively add further restrictions on Palestinian movement and livelihood. This adds to the coercive environment and along with increasing settler violence is forcing some Palestinians to leave their home, raising concerns of possible forcible transfer.

¹ [A/76/336](#), para. 59.

² Fourth Geneva Convention, art. 49 (6). See also Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8 (2) (b) (viii).

³ Hague Regulations, arts. 43 and 55.

⁴ *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

⁵ Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/28, para. 1.

77. The Secretary-General recalls Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), by which the Council decided that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights was null and void and without international legal effect.

78. The Secretary-General recommends that Israel:

(a) Immediately and completely cease and reverse all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in compliance with international law, including relevant United Nations resolutions, such as Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#);

(b) Immediately halt demolitions and forced evictions and cease any activity that would further contribute to a coercive environment and/or lead to a risk of possible forcible transfer;

(c) Promptly review operations and policies of Israeli security forces to ensure consistency with the obligations of Israel as occupying Power to protect the Palestinian population;

(d) Ensure that all incidents of violence by settlers and Israeli security forces against Palestinians and damage to their property, are promptly, effectively, thoroughly, and transparently investigated; that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions, and that victims are provided with effective remedies, including adequate compensation, in accordance with international standards;

(e) Immediately cease and reverse all settlement development and related activities in the occupied Syrian Golan and end discriminatory land, housing and development policies, in compliance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

(f) Immediately remove all mines and minefields in the occupied Syrian Golan, which pose a risk to the local population.

II. SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES ISSUES REPORT

On 3 October — pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/80 — the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of Palestinian People and Other Arabs of Occupied Territories issued its [report](#) (A/77/501) covering from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The recommendations are reproduced below.

62. The Special Committee calls upon the Government of Israel:

(a) To implement all prior recommendations contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly and to facilitate access by the Special Committee to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan;

(b) To end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, namely the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, as well as its occupation of the Syrian Golan, in compliance with Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#) and its obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and to promptly address the gendered impact of occupation;

(c) To systematically investigate all cases of settler violence in the occupied West Bank that result in death or serious injury, and hold perpetrators to account;

(d) To take all measures necessary to ensure that Israeli security forces act in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. Israeli security forces should under no circumstances allow, facilitate or participate in settler attacks in the occupied West Bank;

(e) To systematically investigate all cases of excessive use of force by Israeli security forces that have led to death or serious injury, including in the context of the recent escalation in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable;

(f) To cease all settlement activity, in compliance with Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and construction of the separation wall in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which contravenes international law and undermines the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people;

(g) To cease all settlement and other illegal activities in the occupied Syrian Golan and ensure access to a non-discriminatory planning and zoning process that will advance the interests of the protected population;

(h) To cease offering tax incentives and other concessions to settler organizations;

(i) To immediately freeze and end the illegal practice of demolitions, including administrative and punitive demolitions, which further constitute illegal collective punishment and which contribute to the creation of a coercive environment and may lead to the forcible transfer of vulnerable communities, in violation of international humanitarian law and the rights of the Palestinian people;

(j) To rescind all demolition, eviction and seizure orders that are likely to lead to the forcible transfer of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including Bedouin communities;

(k) To ensure that Palestinians have access to a non-discriminatory planning and zoning process that will advance the interests of the protected population in Area C, including Palestine refugees;

(l) To ensure that detainees are treated in accordance with provisions in international human rights and humanitarian law, in particular with respect to the detention of children, and to end the practice of administrative detention;

(m) To lift the illegal land and sea blockade that has been imposed on Gaza for more than 15 years and open up opportunities for trade and increasing movement of Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank;

(n) To immediately address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which has been made acute by the recent escalation in hostilities, lack of access to clean water and sewage treatment;

(o) To facilitate access to adequate health care for Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with a focus on urgent needs in Gaza due to the deteriorating conditions caused by the escalation in hostilities, the blockade and the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza and Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan;

(p) To review the practice of prolonged administrative detention, carry out prompt, thorough, effective and impartial investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and improve conditions of detention, and ensure access to justice and health-care services;

(q) To combat the environmental degradation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, to halt the exploitation of natural resources and to address the lack of access for Palestinians and Syrians to important natural resources, notably water resources in the West Bank, Gaza and the occupied Syrian Golan;

(r) To ensure the protection necessary for the Palestinian civilian population, human rights defenders, particularly women human rights defenders, and humanitarian personnel, and to allow them to carry out their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment;

(s) To ensure that medical facilities and civilian infrastructure are respected and protected in all circumstances;

(t) To reverse its designation and declaration of prominent Palestinian human rights and humanitarian organizations as “terrorists” and “unlawful”, and to cease harassing, attacking and detaining human rights defenders in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

(u) To cease harassment and physical attacks against journalists and to systematically investigate the killing or injury of journalists, and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable;

(v) To hold elected officials accountable for all acts of incitement that result in death or serious injury;

(w) To desist from implementing any plans to annex parts of the West Bank and the Jordan Valley, as they would constitute a grave breach of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and numerous Security Council resolutions on the issue and would entail an intensification of existing human rights violations against Palestinians, including the forcible displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

63. The Special Committee calls upon the international community:

(a) To urge Israel to end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, namely, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, as well as the occupied Syrian Golan, in compliance with Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#);

(b) To call upon Israel to end the blockade of Gaza, which has a significant detrimental effect on Palestinians, and, in particular, to immediately address the acute humanitarian crisis;

(c) To call upon Israel to cease all settlement activity in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which contravenes international law and has a detrimental effect on the protected population;

(d) To address the pattern of non-cooperation by Israel with the United Nations, in particular regarding the implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and mechanisms established by the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies;

(e) To give effect to its legal obligations, as contained in the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, on the separation wall;

(f) To review national policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures in relation to business activity to ensure that they in effect serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of human rights abuses in the occupied territories;

(g) To review the 21 March 2022 report of the former Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, which concluded that Israel's political system of entrenched rule in the Occupied Palestinian Territory satisfied the prevailing evidentiary standard for the existence of apartheid;

(h) To urge the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take the steps necessary to update annually the database of business enterprises involved in settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to make it available to the public, as mandated in Human Rights Council resolution [31/36](#);

(i) To ensure that corporations respect human rights and cease to fund or enter into commercial transactions with organizations and bodies involved in settlements or the exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan;

(j) To cease offering tax incentives and other concessions to settler organizations;

(k) To support UNRWA so as to ensure uninterrupted service provision to millions of Palestine refugees and to preserve the rights, dignity and hope of Palestine refugees, especially women and children.

III. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR ALARMED BY THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION

On 8 October, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, issued the following [statement](#).

I am alarmed by the deteriorating security situation, including the rise in armed clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Since the beginning of the year, at least 100 Palestinians have been killed, including children, amid a significant increase in Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank, including in Area A. During the same period, 16 Israelis have been killed inside Israel in a wave of terrorist attacks by Palestinians and Israeli Arabs.

The mounting violence in the occupied West Bank is fuelling a climate of fear, hatred and anger. It is crucial to reduce tensions immediately to open the space for crucial initiatives aimed at establishing a viable political horizon.

I urge, and remain actively engaged with, Israeli and Palestinian authorities to restore calm and avoid further escalation.

The fragility of the situation underscores the urgency of changing the dynamics on the ground, while addressing the underlying security and political issues that are fuelling the current instability.

IV. SECRETARY-GENERAL WELCOMES THE SIGNING OF ALGIERS DECLARATION BY PALESTINIAN GROUPS

On 15 October, the Spokesperson for Secretary-General António Guterres issued the following [statement](#).

The Secretary-General welcomes the signing on 13 October of the Declaration of Algiers by 14 Palestinian factions as a positive step towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation. He encourages all factions to overcome their differences through dialogue and urges them to follow up the commitments included in the Declaration, including the holding of elections.

The Secretary-General underscores the importance of Palestinian reconciliation for a politically stable, economically viable, sovereign and independent State of Palestine.

The Secretary-General greatly appreciates the efforts to this end of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and, notably, of President Abdelmajid Tebboune.

V. EU AND WORLD BANK SIGN A €9 MILLION AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN ECONOMY

On 16 October, the European Union Representative Office for the West Bank and Gaza Strip issued the following [press release](#).

Today, at the margins of the 2022 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) held in Washington from 10 to 14 October, the European Union signed an agreement with the World Bank to provide a €9 million initial EU funding contribution through the newly set up Single-Donor Trust Fund for the EU Support for the Palestinian Economy and Resilience (ESPERE). These EU funds will finance activities with the World Bank in the West Bank and Gaza with the aim to support the improvement of the Palestinian business environment.

Henrike Trautmann, Acting Director for Neighbourhood South and Türkiye at the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations said: ‘Over the past months we have discussed closely with the World Bank how to strengthen our cooperation in the Southern Neighbourhood region and respond to the needs of our partners. By contributing to the EU Support for the Palestinian Economy and Resilience (ESPERE) Single-Donor Trust Fund, the EU will provide support in key areas such as the implementation of the Companies Law and the development of digital entrepreneurship ecosystem in the West Bank and Gaza’.

“Through this partnership with the World Bank and contribution to this joint programme, the EU aims to enhance its support to the Palestinian Authority and to improve the Palestinian business environment and accelerate private investments, notably in the digital sector. This programme is part of our wider engagement within the Team Europe Initiative for Sustainable Growth and Jobs in Palestine and directly complement our efforts to accelerate the roll-out of the European External Investment Plan. This aims to addressing challenges and obstacles facing Palestinian businesses in West Bank and Gaza and create new opportunities for private investments contributing to a green, inclusive and sustainable growth. The EU is committed to continue its engagement and support to the Palestinian private sector that is a corner stone in the establishment of the future independent Palestinian state,” said the Deputy EU Representative Maria Velasco.

Creating the conditions for a more conducive business environment will allow to unlock additional private investments. This is central to the Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Growth, Jobs and Resilience and the work of the European-Palestinian Investment Platform. In addition, through the Gaza Gateway Outsourcing Hub, the EU will support the development of the digital entrepreneurship ecosystem in Gaza, a key factor to overcome constraints linked to movement of people and goods.

VI. SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS THREE INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS TO THE BOARD OF THE REGISTER OF DAMAGE

On 17 October, the Secretary-General addressed the following [letter](#) to the President of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly, in its resolution [ES-10/17](#) of 15 December 2006, decided to establish the United Nations Register of Damage caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the Office of the Register of Damage.

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of resolution [ES-10/17](#) and following the departure of the previous members of the Board of the Register of Damage, I have decided to appoint, in their personal capacity, the following three international experts as members of the Board, at the D-2 level and on a when-actually-employed basis:

- Vladimir Gorayev (Russian Federation)
- Mariana Salazar (Mexico)
- Jeremy K. Sharpe (United States)

The three appointees each have a well-established international reputation and expertise in the relevant aspects of the mandate and work of the Register of Damage.

During the process of selecting members of the Board, I was also guided by the need to ensure the independence, objectivity and impartiality of the Office of the Register of Damage, in accordance with the selection criteria defined in my report ([A/ES-10/361](#)), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [ES-10/15](#), as well as the principles of geographical and gender diversity.

Israel and the State of Palestine were duly consulted regarding the new members of the Board and had no objections.

The Board of the Register of Damage will continue to make every effort to carry out its functions expeditiously and thoroughly, guided by its mandate, and will continue to render progress reports periodically to me for transmission to the General Assembly.

(Signed) António Guterres

VII. ACTING HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR EXPRESSES ALARM OVER INCREASE IN VIOLENCE AND MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

On 18 October, the Acting United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator Lucia Elmi issued the following [statement](#).

With at least 105 Palestinians, including 26 children, killed by Israeli forces, 2022 has been the deadliest year since 2006, on a monthly average, for Palestinians residing in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The monthly average of Palestinian fatalities

has increased by 57 per cent when compared with last year. Ten Israeli civilians, three foreigners and four Israeli soldiers have been killed by Palestinians from the West Bank in 2022.

Since the beginning of October alone, 15 Palestinians, including six children, have been killed by Israeli forces during search-and-arrest operations, exchanges of fire, or in confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, often following settler attacks or incursions into Palestinian villages. In some instances, those killed did not appear to pose a concrete or imminent threat to justify the use of lethal force, raising concerns of excessive use of force.

In addition to this alarming situation, the United Nations is concerned about increasing movement restrictions. Earlier this month, after two Israeli soldiers were shot and killed at checkpoints in Nablus and East Jerusalem, Israeli forces imposed extensive movement restrictions, limiting access of many to health care, education, and livelihoods. In Shu'fat refugee camp, these restrictions have largely been lifted, but they remain in place in Nablus. Huwwara, one of Nablus city's only access points, has also seen an increase in the severity and frequency of settler violence.

"The Israeli authorities have a legal responsibility to ensure the protection of all Palestinians," said Lucia Elmi, the Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. "This includes guaranteeing that any measures taken do not affect people disproportionately".

De-escalation is critical to avoid further loss of life, protect civilians and ensure access to essential humanitarian services.

VIII. UN SPECIAL RAPORTEURS CONDEMN ISRAELI PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST FRENCH-PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

On 19 October, a group of UN independent experts including Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967; Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; and Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, issued the following [statement](#).

UN independent experts have called on Israel to immediately release Salah Hammouri, an arbitrarily detained French-Palestinian human rights defender and lawyer, who has just ended a 19 day hunger strike in objection to the systematic policy of administrative detention.

"We are concerned by Israel's pervasive misuse of administrative and criminal law proceedings and use of secret information against Palestinians, including human rights defenders such as Mr. Hammouri. This is a deliberate measure designed to silence human rights defenders, which has a profound chilling effect on all Palestinian and Israeli civil society actors," said the experts.

"The detention practices Mr. Hammouri is being subjected to are not just unlawful: they are sadistic."

The experts said Israeli authorities have targeted Mr. Hammouri during the past 20 years with harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, and other forms of abuse. Acts of retaliation against him intensified after he became a human rights defender and lawyer defending and advocating for prisoners' rights with Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, one of the six Palestinian civil society organisations that Israel has [designated](#) as “terrorist”. Most recently, he has been placed under administrative detention since 7 March 2022, without charge or trial, based on “secret information”.

Mr. Hammouri, as a French citizen, had appealed on 14 July to French President Emmanuel Macron to apply pressure on Israel to end his arbitrary detention. Following his appeal, Israeli authorities reportedly classified him as “a prisoner of high risk” and forcibly transferred him to a high security prison in Hadarim in the Sharon region of central **Israel**; a transfer journey that involved inhumane treatment, according to Mr. Hammouri’s testimony.

“France should not turn a blind eye to these unacceptable acts of retaliation and reprisal against a French citizen and his administrative detention, which is arguably an arbitrary form of detention *per se*,” said the experts, noting that Mr. Hammouri’s previous administrative detention in 2018 was [found](#) to be arbitrary by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. They urged France to exercise all possible diplomatic and other efforts to ensure Mr. Hammouri’s release.

According to the latest information, the Israeli authorities placed Mr. Hammouri in abysmal and inhumane conditions, as punishment for having started a hunger strike together with other 29 detainees under administrative detention without charges. He was reportedly detained in a filthy and pest-infested isolation cell of four-square meters in Hadarim prison, without open air or light for 15 days, and deprived of any contact with the outside world. According to his defense, he was subject to pressure by Israeli prison officials, telling him that if he would leave his hometown Jerusalem and go to France this harassment would end.

The experts also noted that Mr. Hammouri’s permanent residency in Jerusalem had been revoked last year, based on “secret information” and allegations of his involvement in “terrorist activities” and “breach of allegiance to the Israeli State”.

“Israel’s acts of forcibly deporting protected persons from the occupied territory and forcing their allegiance to the occupying power, would constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law, and may amount to a war crime: it is about time such widespread practices are investigated by the International Criminal Court.”

The experts have called on Israel to immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Hammouri and other detainees under administrative detention, and to maintain Mr. Hammouri’s permanent residency in his hometown, Jerusalem, where he has the right to live freely with his family.

The experts note with concern that according to the latest official figures of the Israeli Prison Service, Israel is holding 798 persons in administrative detention without charges – the highest number in over a decade.

The experts have not received any response from the Government of Israel to concerns expressed in [2020](#), [2021](#) and [2022](#).

IX. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL ISSUES URGENT APPEAL FOR US\$ 13 MILLION TO AID PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

On 21 October, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini issued this [press release](#).

In Lebanon, an increasing number of Palestine refugees tell UNRWA that “anything” is better than their lives today. As the world is looking elsewhere, Palestine refugees continue to take dangerous risks in search of a better life.

Unprecedented levels of poverty, skyrocketing unemployment rates and increasing despair are spreading across the country, severely hitting the Lebanese people and Syrian and Palestine refugees. This comes amid one of the worst economic crises in recent history, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, poor governance and an almost total collapse in basic services. Palestine refugees, living in overcrowded camps and marginalized by discriminatory policies, are historically one of the poorest people in the country. They are at the end of their rope.

Almost every Palestine refugee in Lebanon lives in poverty. The average cost of the food basket has increased six-fold in the last year one of the highest increases the world has recorded this year. The cost of water, fuel, electricity, gas, transport and health care is now three to five times higher. Medicines are increasingly unavailable on the market and families are unable to afford them since government subsidies have been lifted. Too many Palestine refugee families are no longer able to afford secondary health care. Some are skipping lifesaving treatment to avoid accumulating debts.

Iman, a mother of three, living in Mar Elias camp told UNRWA: *“Dying from poverty will not be much different from dying at sea. Life in Lebanon has become unbearable with one crisis after another. Youth are those seeking to emigrate to escape this reality though entire families are now selling everything and risking their lives just to have a decent life.”*

While UNRWA has been helping, providing cash assistance and other basic services, our assistance is a drop in an ocean of despair. With our emergency humanitarian appeal heavily underfunded, Palestine refugees are often unable to even scrape by. Much more is immediately needed to avert more tragedies unfolding.

The time to act is now. We must take collective responsibility, lend a hand to Lebanon to help pull people back from the brink.

UNRWA is urgently appealing for US\$ 13 million for Palestine refugees in Lebanon. This will enable the Agency to provide much-needed cash assistance to families, continue running primary health care services and keep our schools open to the end of the year.

X. UAE AND WHO SIGN US\$ 25 MILLION AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT AL MAKASSED HOSPITAL IN EAST JERUSALEM

On 21 October, the World Health Organization issued the following [press release](#).

Under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, the country signed a US\$ 25 million cooperation agreement in support of Al Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem. This came as part of the United Arab Emirates' efforts to support the medical and health care sectors in the occupied Palestinian territory in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and in coordination with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO).

HE Sultan Mohammed Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for International Development Affairs, said that the signing of this agreement reflected the United Arab Emirates' consistent and historic commitment to the Palestinian people in meeting their humanitarian needs, especially in the health sector. The Assistant Minister highlighted the notable efforts of WHO and UNSCO in collaborating with the United Arab Emirates to strengthen the capacities of Palestinian hospitals in providing health care to the Palestinian people. At Al Makassed Hospital in particular, it is expected that more than 130,000 people will benefit from its health services.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that health is not a luxury, but a human right, and it is central to development,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “We thank the United Arab Emirates for its generous donation, leading role and commitment to improving the delivery of quality health services for the Palestinian people.”

Lynn Hastings, United Nations Resident Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, thanked the Government of the United Arab Emirates for its timely and generous support, which she said will help ensure the continuity of essential health services by Al Makassed Hospital, which is an important part of the East Jerusalem Hospital Network.

“The United Arab Emirates' contributions will be vital in sustaining the immediate and critical delivery of essential health care services at Al Makassed Hospital, including referral cases,” said Dr Rik Peepkorn, WHO Representative in the occupied Palestinian territory. “It will also improve the quality of Al Makassed's Obstetrics and Gynecology Department and assist in the training of medical specialists for all of Palestine.”

Dr Adnan Farhoud, Director-General of Al Makassed Hospital, thanked President H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the humanitarian gesture and underscored the degree to which such support will transform the hospital's operations and services.

XI. SAUDI ARABIA CONTRIBUTES US\$ 27 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF UNRWA

On 23 October, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East UNRWA issued the following [press release](#).

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) welcomes a very generous contribution of US \$ 27 million from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in support of the Agency's programmes and operations in the region.

"We are delighted to receive this generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" said Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner General during a ceremony held at the Saudi Embassy in Amman in the presence of Mr Ahmad Abu Holi, the Head of the Palestine Refugees Department. "This renewed commitment to the work of UNRWA is in line with the Kingdom's longstanding generosity towards Palestine refugees and in solidarity with them" he added.

This unrestricted contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will enable UNRWA to continue the delivery of programmes in education and health and reach the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

Nayef bin Bandar Al-Sudairi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Jordan, said: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has historically been devoted to providing political and socio-economic support to the Palestinian cause. This includes supporting the rights of the Palestinian people in United Nations and humanitarian organizations and the historic cooperation with UNRWA through continuous support for the services it provides. We sincerely appreciate the role and work of UNRWA in supporting Palestine refugees. This has become especially critical in light of the unprecedented financial challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the challenges of the repeated Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian people across the Palestinian territories".

Al-Sudairi added: "The Kingdom affirms its commitment to peace as a strategic choice. Security and stability of the Middle East require speeding up efforts to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question, in line with international resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Kingdom condemns all unilateral measures that undermine the two-state solution and calls for their immediate cessation".

Al-Sudairi pointed out that the total Saudi support to Palestine since 1999 has amounted to more than \$5.2 billion, including support to the Palestinian Authority's budget and direct support to different sectors including infrastructure, health, education, food and agriculture security, Palestinian government and civil society, water and environmental reform.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been one of the largest donors to UNRWA. Saudi Arabia has contributed nearly 1 billion US\$ to UNRWA only in the past decade. This recent contribution comes following a pledge of 50 million US\$ the Kingdom made in 2019.

"There are few sources of stability in the lives of Palestine refugees. Access to basic services like education and primary health care are among them. Following decades of partnership with the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UNRWA looks forward to further deepening it to promote a dignified life, especially in the face of growing needs and deteriorating conditions in the Palestinian camps across the region” concluded Lazzarini.

XII. UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR CALLS FOR DISMANTLING OF THE ISRAELI SETTLER-COLONIAL OCCUPATION AND ITS APARTHEID PRACTICES

On 27 October, Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, presented her [report](#) (A/77/356) to the General Assembly Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues) The recommendations are reproduced below.

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77. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government of Israel complies with its obligations under international law and ceases to impede the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, ending its settler-colonial occupation of the Palestinian territory immediately and unconditionally and making reparations for its wrongful acts.

78. The Special Rapporteur recommends that all States:

(a) Condemn the intentional violations by Israel of the Palestinian right to self-determination including through settler-colonial practices. This requires that:

(i) States demand an immediate end to the illegal Israeli occupation, return of all land and resources from which the Palestinian people have been displaced and dispossessed while refraining from making withdrawal subject to negotiation between Israel and Palestine;

(ii) The General Assembly develops a plan to end the Israeli settler-colonial occupation and apartheid regime;

(iii) States stand ready to resort to the diplomatic, economic and political measures afforded by the Charter of the United Nations in case of non-compliance by Israel;

(b) Deploy an international protective presence to constrain the violence routinely used in the occupied Palestinian territory and protect the Palestinian population, in line with the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population ([A/ES-10/794](#));

(c) Act to ensure a thorough, independent and transparent investigation of all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including those amounting to potential war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression, committed in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Special Rapporteur further recommends that the international community pursue accountability for perpetrators through both ICC in its ongoing investigation into the situation in Palestine, and universal jurisdiction mechanisms;

(d) Take appropriate steps to prevent, investigate and redress human rights abuses by all business enterprises domiciled in their territory and/or under their jurisdiction by adopting the necessary policies to regulate business conduct in the occupied Palestinian territory, including disengaging from the colonies and providing effective remedy for victims.

79. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the High Commissioner for Human Rights release, without delay, the updated database of businesses involved in settlements (Human Rights Council resolution [31/36](#)).

80. The Special Rapporteur fully supports the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, and encourages it to investigate the status of the right to self-determination and Israeli settler-colonial endeavours in more depth than the territorial and geographic limitations of her mandate allow.

XIII. INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FINDS GROUNDS TO CONSIDER THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION UNLAWFUL

On 27 October, the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, Navanethem Pillay, presented the Commission's [report](#) (A/77/328) to the General Assembly's Third Committee. The recommendations are reproduced below.

...

91. The Commission recommends that the Government of Israel:

(a) Comply fully with international law and end without delay its 55 years of occupation of the Palestinian and Syrian territories;

(b) Comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including, specifically, with regard to the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and its right to freely utilize natural resources, under international human rights law, including article 1 of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

92. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly:

(a) Urgently request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the continued refusal on the part of Israel to end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, amounting to de facto annexation, of policies employed to achieve this, and of the refusal on the part of Israel to respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and on the obligations of third States and the United Nations to ensure respect for international law;

(b) Transmit the present report to the Security Council and request that it consider further action to bring to an end the illegal situation resulting from the permanent occupation imposed by Israel, and call upon the Security Council to require Israel to immediately bring its permanent occupation to an end.

93. The Commission recommends that the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court prioritize the investigation into the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and, in addition to identifying direct perpetrators and those exercising command responsibility, investigate those aiding, abetting or otherwise assisting in the commission of crimes under the Rome Statute, including by providing the means for their commission.

94. The Commission recommends that the Security Council urgently consider measures to ensure that Israel immediately complies with its international legal obligations and with prior Council resolutions, including those in which the Council has called for an end to the occupation, has declared the acquisition of territory by force inadmissible and has found that settlement activity constitutes a flagrant violation of international law.

95. The Commission recommends that States Members of the United Nations uphold their obligations under international law, including their extraterritorial human rights obligations, and obligations under the common article 1 to the four Geneva Conventions and articles 146, 147 and 148 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, including by investigating and prosecuting persons suspected of committing or otherwise aiding and abetting or assisting in the commission or attempted commission of crimes under international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

XIV. UN SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS OPEN DEBATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

On 28 October, the Security Council met to discuss the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question. UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland provided a [briefing](#), and Vice-Chair of the Palestinian Rights Committee Neville Gertze also made a [statement](#). Both are reproduced below.

Special Coordinator Wennesland:

I brief you today as the security situation in the occupied West Bank is caught in a downward spiral.

Too many people, overwhelmingly Palestinians, have been killed and injured in daily violence. Mounting hopelessness, anger and tension have once again erupted into a deadly cycle of violence that is increasingly difficult to contain.

Decades of violence and its toll on both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as a prolonged absence of meaningful negotiations and a failure to resolve the key issues fueling the conflict have created fertile ground for this dynamic.

In recent weeks, I have had discussions with Palestinian officials and factions across the West Bank and in Gaza, and a range of Israeli officials and members of the international community to address this volatile situation. My message has been clear. The immediate priority is to work to calm the situation and reverse the negative trends on the ground. This will require determined actions by both parties, supported by the international community.

However, this cannot be a goal itself. Efforts are also urgently needed to empower and strengthen the Palestinian Authority and build towards a return to a political process. A failure to implement strategies to address both the symptoms and the root causes of violent escalation will only worsen an already explosive situation.

Let me describe for the Council the current dynamic in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In total, 32 Palestinians, including six children, were killed by Israeli security forces during demonstrations, clashes, search-and-arrest operations, attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis, and other incidents, and 311 Palestinians, including one woman and eight children, were injured. Israeli settlers or other civilians perpetrated 106 attacks against Palestinians resulting in 63 injuries and/or damage to Palestinian property.

In all, two Israeli security forces personnel were killed, and 25 Israeli civilians, including five women and three children, and 13 Israeli security forces personnel were injured by Palestinians in shooting and ramming attacks, clashes, the throwing of stones and Molotov cocktails, and other incidents. In total, Palestinians perpetrated some 115 attacks against Israeli civilians, 100 of which were stone-throwing incidents, resulting in injuries and/or damage to Israeli property.

In the reporting period, we saw a spike in fatal violence across the occupied West Bank. So far, 2022 is on course to be the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since OCHA began systematically tracking Palestinian fatalities in 2005.

Violence was particularly intense in Jenin and Nablus Governorates, in the northern part of West Bank. In Jenin, ten Palestinians, including two children, were killed by ISF, while in Nablus, eight Palestinians were killed by ISF. Most of these fatalities occurred during military operations to arrest what Israeli authorities said were Palestinians suspected of involvement in attacks or planned attacks against Israelis, and during related armed clashes.

In one such incident, Israeli security forces killed five Palestinians during an operation in Jenin Refugee Camp on 28 September, which involved an exchange of fire with armed Palestinians. Among those killed was a bystander and a 12-year-old boy.

Amid a spate of Palestinian shooting attacks against Israelis in the occupied West Bank, Palestinians shot and killed two Israeli soldiers: on 8 October at a checkpoint outside Shu'fat

Refugee Camp, near Jerusalem; and on 11 October in a drive-by shooting near Nablus. Al-Aqsa Martyrs brigade claimed the 8 October attacker as a member; and the Lions' Den Brigades, a newly formed group of armed Palestinians based in Nablus, claimed responsibility for the attack on the twelfth.

Amid search operations for the perpetrators, Israeli authorities imposed strict movement restrictions. Entry to the Shu'fat Refugee Camp was severely restricted for six days; while in Nablus, strict restrictions were in place from 11 until yesterday, 27 October, impacting basic service delivery and economic activity.

Demonstrations and protests spread from Shu'fat to East Jerusalem and led to clashes between Palestinians and ISF. Tensions persisted when, on 13 October, a right-wing Israeli Member of the Knesset led a group through Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, at one point brandishing a weapon and making violent threats.

In Nablus' Old City on 25 October, ISF shot and killed five Palestinians during a military operation. Israeli authorities said that they were targeting an explosives workshop belonging to the Lions' Den and that a senior member of the group was among those killed. Thousands of Palestinians subsequently demonstrated in Nablus, with protests spreading across the occupied West Bank.

Amid the heightened tensions, Palestinians conducted general strikes and five days of civil disobedience campaigns across the West Bank, with further clashes between Palestinians and ISF.

Settler-related violence and provocations has also increased during the reporting period, contributing to the dynamic of escalating violence in the occupied West Bank.

Throughout the reporting period, settlers held numerous demonstrations across the West Bank, with protesters on multiple occasions blocking main roads, throwing stones and impeding movement for Palestinian residents.

Tensions were particularly high around Nablus, where settlers impeded main routes for Palestinian residents and, on several occasions, groups of Israeli settlers entered the Palestinian town of Huwwara, south of Nablus, damaging Palestinian property and prompting clashes with residents, in some cases in the presence of Israeli Security Forces.

On 4 October, three Palestinians, including two children, were injured after Israeli settlers attacked a school with rocks and sticks. On 14 October, 15 Palestinians were injured, including two with live ammunition, in clashes with Israeli settlers and the ISF.

On 20 October, two ISF were injured after they were attacked by a group of settlers south of Huwwara, prompting condemnation from senior Israeli officials.

During the reporting period, IDF announced that it had opened investigations into two separate cases where soldiers were documented violently assaulting Palestinians or shooting towards Palestinian homes.

I am alarmed by the intensity of violence in the occupied West Bank, including the high number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces, numerous armed attacks by Palestinians against Israelis, including killings, and settler violence.

I reiterate that perpetrators of all acts of violence must be held accountable and that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life.

I am appalled that children continue to be the victims of violence. Children must never be the targets of violence or put in harm's way.

During the reporting period, Israeli authorities demolished, seized or forced owners to demolish 38 Palestinian-owned structures in Area C and three in East Jerusalem, displacing 81 Palestinians. The demolitions were carried out due to the lack of Israeli-issued building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain.

On 3 October, with regard to the status of Khan al-Ahmar, the High Court of Justice granted the State of Israel a postponement until February 2023 for its response to a petition that seeks to compel Israeli authorities to evacuate the Bedouin village in Area C.

I call on Israeli authorities to end the displacement and eviction of Palestinians and to approve additional plans that would enable Palestinians to build legally and address their development needs. Mr. President,

Despite the overall deterioration of the situation, there were some positive developments during the reporting period.

On 13 October, following an inter-factional dialogue hosted by the Government of Algeria, 14 Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, signed the Algeria Declaration. In the declaration, the factions agreed, inter alia, to recognize the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to hold elections for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Legislative Council and the Palestinian National Council. I echo the Secretary-General in welcoming the agreement and underscore the importance of Palestinian reconciliation for a viable, independent Palestinian State.

Turning to the Gaza Strip, Israel increased by some 1,300 the issuance of permits for Palestinians from Gaza to work or conduct business in Israel, bringing the total number to over 16,000.

The reporting period saw the highest volume of imports from Egypt via Salah ad-Din gate since it began operations in February 2018, largely due to Egyptian-funded reconstruction projects with over 5,000 trucks entering Gaza in the period.

Exports from Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing to Israel increased by 26 per cent compared to the previous period. Notably, the transport of fish to the West Bank resumed. Meanwhile, imports to Gaza through Kerem Shalom decreased slightly, with a daily average of 192 trucks compared to 223 trucks last month.

Delays in the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Gaza Central Desalination Project have resulted from delays in Israeli approvals of entry for materials under the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism. Ensuring the timely approval for the entry of such materials is essential to moving important development projects forward and sustaining vital donor support for these projects.

In the West Bank, on 20 October, Israeli authorities began implementing a pilot phase of new regulations governing the entry of certain foreign passport holders into the West Bank. The new

regulations were issued in the context of a petition submitted to the High Court of Justice and are far more detailed and specific than those used in the past.

Unfortunately, the humanitarian response across the OPT continues to face chronic funding gaps. As of October, only 57 per cent of the requirements of the Humanitarian Response Plan had been met, as Palestinians across the OPT face additional economic pressures and the risk of food insecurity due to cost of living increases.

Turning to the region, in the Golan, the ceasefire between Israel and Syria was generally maintained despite several violations of the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement of Forces by both parties, including the Israel Defense Forces firing across the ceasefire line into the area of separation and Syrian armed forces maintaining presence in the area of separation. I remind the parties of the need to abide by the terms of the Agreement and prevent risks of escalation.

I welcome the 27 October signing by the Governments of Lebanon and Israel of an agreement that settles their maritime boundary dispute, mediated by the United States. This is an important and encouraging development and I hope it will promote increased stability in the region.

I underscore the importance of Lebanon's forming a new government and electing a new president pursuant to the country's constitutional framework.

At the end, let me turn back to where I started, concrete steps by all sides are urgently needed to address the situation on the ground. I call on the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to recognize what is at stake and to take the necessary steps to restore calm.

Let me repeat such efforts need full support from the international community.

However, unless the core political issues are addressed, the deep-rooted mistrust and hostility will continue to grow. I see clearly the mounting frustration and anger of Palestinians in the face of decades of Israeli occupation.

The Palestinian Authority urgently needs the economic support and political space to fully exercise its authority, including security, in areas under its control.

The United Nations remains actively engaged with all relevant parties and is committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis to resolve the conflict by ending the occupation and realizing a two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 lines, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements.

CEIRPP Vice Chair Gertze:

...

The Committee is alarmed by the dangerous escalation in Israeli military raids across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This is dramatically destabilizing the situation and taking us further away from the international consensus to achieve a just peace in the Middle East, as outlined in international law and countless UN resolutions, most recently in SC resolution 2334 (2016). Israeli military raids in Jenin and Nablus, as well as in other areas in the Occupied

Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are exacerbating an already dangerous situation and leading to the killing and injury of more civilians, including women and children.

There is no justification for killing civilians. We urge an immediate lowering of tensions and the exercise of maximum restraint in full adherence to the law, including international humanitarian law, and reiterate the imperative of ensuring accountability for unlawful and excessive use of force in accordance with international law.

Violence is not the answer.

The situation in Jerusalem deserves renewed attention. Repeated provocations and violations of the historic and legal status quo by Israel, the occupying Power, at Al-Aqsa Mosque must end. The consensus is clear, such provocative rhetoric and actions inflame tensions and threaten to ignite yet another needless cycle of violence. The Committee reiterates that the historic and legal status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem must be upheld and respected by all parties.

The ongoing expansion of illegal settlements and settler-related violence needs decisive action. Last week, Israel approved hundreds of new settlement units in northern Jerusalem, adding to the plight of Palestinians who suffer discrimination and dispossession in their own city in flagrant breach of international law and relevant UN resolutions. Such illegal actions reinforce hopelessness, undermine the viability of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders, and are a flagrant obstruction of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

In her first report to the UN General Assembly, Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, notes the illegality of the Israeli occupation as it has “proven not to be temporary, is deliberately administered against the best interests of the occupied population and has resulted in the annexation of occupied territory.”

We call on Israel, the occupying Power, to adhere to its obligations, reverse the trend towards dispossession and forcible displacement of Palestinians, and to halt the transfer of its own population to the occupied territory, which it continues to systematically carry out in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

Settlements and annexation are not the answer.

The Committee condemns in the strongest of terms Israel’s relentless targeting and shrinking of Palestinian civil society space. Civil society organizations are a pillar to democracy and their ability to operate freely is a pre-requisite for an inclusive society. We call on Israel to uphold its obligations as the occupying Power towards the Palestinian people in line with international law, including their basic civil rights and freedom of expression, and to reverse its baseless decision to outlaw six Palestinian civil society organizations on the grounds of being “terrorist organizations.”

We also call on Israel to fully lift its 15-year illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip and to cease its obstruction of the efforts to strengthen the foundations for a Palestinian state living along Israel in peace and security, including all policies that have resulted in the de-development of Gaza. This is paramount for reversing the steep deteriorating socioeconomic situation in Gaza and undoing the fragmentation of the Palestinian people.

A land, air and sea blockade is not the answer.

We note with appreciation the international community's generous contributions to UNRWA. However, the Agency remains in dire need of sustainable and predictable funding to meet the urgent needs of millions of Palestine refugees, thus contributing to stability in the Middle East. We urge Member States to renew the mandate of UNRWA when it comes for a vote this session in the General Assembly and equally to continue their financial support to the Agency, including the possibility of expanded UN budgetary support to ensure the continuity of its vital humanitarian programs.

The Committee will continue to fully support all efforts to achieve the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace and security.

This injustice can only be resolved by implementing the parameters that have already been identified according to international law, UN resolutions and past agreements between the parties to ensure the promise of a sovereign and independent Palestinian State, based on the 1967 lines and with East Jerusalem as its capital, where the Palestinian people can realize their freedom and live in peace, stability and dignity.

A just and lasting peace is the answer.

XV. UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER TARGETED KILLINGS IN NABLUS

On 28 October, the Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued the following [statement](#).

This week saw further violence in the occupied West Bank, raising concerns about the possible resumption of unlawful targeted killings by Israeli security forces.

On Sunday, 23 October, a reportedly senior member of “the Lion’s Den” – a loose group of young armed Palestinian men – was killed in the old city of Nablus, apparently when a boobytrapped motorcycle detonated near him.

During operations on Tuesday, 25 October against “the Lion’s Den” members of the Israeli security forces shot dead three men in the old city of Nablus. One of the men was reportedly armed, while two others are reported to have been unarmed. Also on Tuesday, another man who was reportedly a senior member of the same group, was shot dead. Yet another man was killed when the car he was in exploded right outside of the old city.

Earlier, on 25 September, Israeli security forces opened fire on and killed a member of “the Lion’s Den” who was riding a motorcycle in Nablus. The circumstances of all these incidents are being verified by our Office.

At least 118 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem this year, including 26 children and five women. Three Palestinians, including one child, were killed by settlers or settlement guards, while another child was killed by either a settler

or by Israeli security forces. Four members of the Israeli security forces and one settlement guard have been killed by Palestinians in the West Bank.

We recall that international human rights law only permits the use of firearms when absolutely necessary, when there is an imminent threat to life or of serious injury. Any killing resulting from the use of firearms or targeting of individuals who do not present an imminent threat to life or of serious injury, may amount to extrajudicial executions – an egregious violation of the right to life – and willful killings, under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is applicable in the entire occupied Palestinian territory.
