



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
21 December 2022

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5

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

Security Council
Seventy-seventh year

Identical letters dated 20 December 2022 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write yet again to warn of the dramatic heightening of tensions and sentiments and anger among the Palestinian people as Israel continues its inhumane assaults against the lives, dignity and very existence of our people.

Today, a Palestinian man long imprisoned by Israel, the occupying Power, and subjected to all forms of ill-treatment by his captors, including medical negligence, has died in captivity. Nasser Abu Hmeid, aged 50, who was afflicted with cancer yet denied release to receive urgent medical treatment outside of prison, was declared dead this morning. Abu Hmeid was diagnosed with lung cancer in August last year, but repeated appeals for his release were rejected by Israel, preventing his access to proper medical care while also failing to provide him with necessary treatment, a deliberate act of medical negligence, in grave violation of Israel's international humanitarian law obligations.

During the course of his illness, Abu Hmeid was also continually denied visits from his family. His mother and brother were only last night permitted, following an intervention by the International Committee of the Red Cross, to see him as he lay dying in hospital, deepening the suffering of a family that has for too long been the victim of Israeli violence and oppression. His elder brother was shot and killed by Israeli occupying forces in 1994, four of his brothers have been imprisoned by Israel, and his family's home has also been demolished several times.

At this time, the Palestinian leadership is trying to secure the release of Abu Hmeid's body to his family for a proper burial. We call on the international community to act now to demand that Israel respect international law and immediately transfer his body to his family, who are already suffering the immense grief of his loss under such tragic circumstances, to allow for his dignified burial according to religious and cultural traditions.

We further draw attention to the fact that an estimated 600 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel in its colonial apartheid jails are suffering medical ailments,



including 24 Palestinians who have some form of cancer requiring acute medical care. Yet Israel continues its long-running practice of intentionally neglecting and refusing to treat ill prisoners, in violation of its legal obligations and all moral standards. According to Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, 233 Palestinian prisoners have died in Israel's jails, including at least 74 who died as a direct result of its systematic policy of medical negligence.

We call for the release of all Palestinians who are being held in the jails of this colonial occupation and apartheid regime and being deprived of all their rights. Pressure must be brought to bear on Israel to cease its arrest, detention and imprisonment of Palestinian civilians, including children, and to release them forthwith in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Absent such demands and accountability, Israel continues its daily arrest of Palestinian civilians, adding to the 4,760 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails, among them 160 children and 33 women, with a 36-year-old pregnant mother of five among those detained in recent days, and with 820 being held in administrative detention without charge and denied due process of the law.

In this regard, in follow-up to earlier letters and appeals for action, we must also draw attention to Israel's deportation yesterday of Salah Hammouri, aged 37, to France. Hammouri, a Palestinian-French citizen, is a lawyer and human rights defender working with Addameer, an internationally recognized human rights organization seeking justice for Palestinian prisoners, and who himself had been held in administrative detention since March of this year. He has been arrested six times and spent more than nine years in Israeli prisons, including seven years in detention between 2005 and 2011 after he was forced to choose between deportation from his home in Palestine to France for 15 years or prolonged imprisonment. Moreover, Mr. Hammouri's Jerusalem residency was revoked under the premise of "not showing loyalty to Israel", based on "secret evidence", denying him the right to remain with his family in his home city of Jerusalem.

We call on the international community to condemn this illegal decision and to demand that Israel immediately rescind it and respect its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such deportations.

Lastly, I must regrettably again draw attention to another killing of young Palestinian men, once again two brothers, by Israel's colonial forces, this time by an Israeli settler. On 17 December, the two brothers, Mohammed and Muhannad Yousef Muteir, who were fixing the tyre of their car on the side of the road, were killed in a deliberate car-ramming attack by the Israeli settler near a military checkpoint south of Nablus. Mohammed was killed instantly; his brother Muhannad was critically injured, but died later in hospital. The brothers, who lived in the Kalandia refugee camp, are being mourned by their devastated family and community.

We call for the perpetrator of this heinous crime to be held accountable, as we call for accountability for all the crimes being perpetrated by the Israeli government and its military and settler militias against the Palestinian people who have for too long suffered under its colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

The situation on the ground is worsening every day, with fear and death pervasive as the depravity and violence of Israeli occupying forces and settlers escalate to dangerous levels barring any consequences for such impunity. The international community's paralysis and silence further embolden this lawlessness, a message that is surely being taken note of by the incoming extremist Israeli government.

It is beyond past time for the international community, including the Security Council, to act urgently, seriously and tangibly in the face of such blatant war crimes, crimes against humanity and human rights abuses to hold Israel accountable for its crimes, to deter violence and terror against the Palestinian people by its armies of soldiers and settlers, to protect the Palestinian people and to save human lives.

It is beyond past time for the international community, including the Security Council, to act to stem the deterioration of the situation, to reverse the negative trends and to work collectively, in a spirit of multilateralism and responsibility, to chart a path forward for justice for the Palestinian people and for Palestinian-Israeli peace, in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and all other relevant resolutions.

This letter is in follow-up to our 772 letters regarding the ongoing historic injustice against the Palestinian people and the crimes being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 13 December 2022 (A/ES-10/922-S/2022/1035), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

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

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