



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2023

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-eighth year

Identical letters dated 8 March 2023 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

As the international community looks on, unwilling and unable to act to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its crimes and to provide protection to the Palestinian people, the situation is dangerously deteriorating and requires immediate attention and action.

In the span of only one week since our last letter and since the Security Council met to address the situation, including the horrific terror attack by Jewish settlers and Israeli occupying forces on the village of Huwwara, more Palestinians have been killed and injured, more Palestinian homes have been demolished, more Palestinian families have been forcibly transferred, more Palestinians have been arrested and detained, more settlement plans have been advanced and more acts of terror by Israeli soldiers and settlers have been committed.

Yesterday, 7 March, Israeli occupying forces once again attacked the Jenin refugee camp, targeting civilians with live ammunition and missiles, killing six Palestinians and injuring at least 26 other people, critically wounding three of them. The victims of this Israeli attack include Mohammed Wael Ghazzawi, 26 years old, Tarik Ziyad Mustafa Natour, aged 27, Ziyad Amin Al-Zarini, aged 29, Mutasim Nasser Sabbagh, aged 22, Mohammed Ahmad Salim Khalouf, aged 22, and Abdel Fattah Hussein Kharousha, aged 49. As has repeatedly happened elsewhere in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Israeli occupying forces again obstructed and attacked ambulances and medical personnel attempting to aid the wounded.

Among those killed, Kharousha was deliberately targeted and extrajudicially executed by Israeli occupying forces. In this regard, it is to be recalled that extrajudicial executions are prohibited under international law and that those who refer to this act as simply “the killing” or “elimination” of the perpetrator of a crime, not even describing the perpetrator as “suspected” or “alleged”, depart from



international law and distort the context and reality of what is happening to the Palestinian people under Israel's criminal settler-colonial occupation.

Also, in another attack, a Palestinian boy, Mohammed Nidal Saleem, aged 15, was shot in the back and killed by Israeli soldiers in the town of Azzun, near Qalqilya, on 2 March. Two other boys were also injured, one seriously by a bullet to the chest, as Israeli occupying forces fired at the children at the entrance to the town. The number of Palestinians killed by Israel since the start of this year now stands at 74 people, including 14 children.

At the same time, extremist Jewish settlers continue their violent attacks on Palestinian civilians, including another attack on the traumatized population in Huwwara. Overnight on 6 March, settler gangs descended again on Huwwara, assaulting Palestinians with, inter alia, live ammunition and hatchets. Five Palestinians, members of the same family, were injured in the terror attack, including an elderly man and a small child.

Israeli occupying forces did nothing to stop the settlers or protect the Palestinian civilians. On the contrary, video footage of that evening shows Israeli soldiers and settlers dancing together in the streets of Huwwara to celebrate the Purim holiday while chanting, "Huwwara has been conquered", among other threats and incitement. This scene of depravity is yet another reflection of the systematic terror, violence, racism and inhumanity that the Palestinian people are suffering every day under this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

All of this is being perpetrated by Israel and its armies of soldiers and settlers to intimidate and subjugate the Palestinian people as a means to further assert Israel's control and domination as part of its frenzied plans to colonize and annex the Palestinian land under its illegal occupation. And all of this is being done systematically and intentionally as official Israeli policy, with government ministers not only encouraging and fuelling the perpetration of such crimes but literally instructing and calling for them.

This includes the extremist, far-right settler Bezalel Smotrich, who is currently serving as Israel's Minister of Finance and also as a minister in the Defense Ministry in charge of "civilian affairs" in the occupied West Bank, who publicly stated on 1 March, "I think the village of Huwwara should be wiped out. I think that the State of Israel should do that".

Such vile comments constitute dangerous incitement and an ominous threat not only against the 7,000 Palestinians living in Huwwara but the Palestinian people as a whole. Indeed, the terror and destruction inflicted on Huwwara and the threats by Smotrich and other Israeli extremists are frighteningly reminiscent of the devastation inflicted by Jewish terror militias and Israeli soldiers against the Palestinian people in the 1948 Nakbah, in which over 400 Palestinian villages and towns were destroyed and depopulated, with nearly 800,000 Palestinians expelled or fleeing from their homes and country in fear as violence and terror rained down upon them.

How can it be that the international community stands by and watches such war crimes and crimes against humanity being perpetrated? How can it be that Israel's trampling of the Charter – among the principal aims of which was to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and which consecrates the right of peoples to self-determination and prohibits the acquisition of territory by force – and its trampling of all other tenets of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, are allowed to be carried on without consequence?

None of this is lawful or justifiable. Swift, serious action is needed to uphold the law and halt Israel's wanton, depraved and unrelenting aggression against the Palestinian people. The international community must act forthwith to avert the

dangers of further destabilization of this volatile situation, save human lives and promote justice.

We therefore call once again upon the international community, with the Security Council at the forefront, to act now to ensure protection for the Palestinian people in the face of the brutality that continues to be meted out to it by Israel's occupying forces and settler militias under the direction of Israeli government officials, including known extremists. The international community must also act to bring a halt to Israel's colonization and annexation of the Palestinian land and to bring a halt to all forms of aggression, terror and collective punishment by Israel against the Palestinian people.

Only accountability can make this possible. All States have an obligation to undertake immediate measures of accountability – at the national, regional and international levels – to impose consequences for all of Israel's violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people and its grave breaches of international law. Without accountability, it is patently clear, as is reflected in the declared manifesto of the extremist Israeli government, that we will witness only more and more grave war crimes.

It is time to end impunity. It is time to stop enabling Israel and to stop treating it as a State above the law. It is time to bring an end to this historic injustice against the Palestinian people that remains an open wound for the international family and a stain on the international conscience, depriving an entire people of their inalienable rights and undermining the viability of international law and our international system.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 781 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 27 February 2023 ([A/ES-10/929-S/2023/149](#)) 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) Riyad **Mansour**
Minister
Permanent Observer