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The situation in the Middle East
Question of Palestine

**Letter dated 6 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States and in the capacity of Egypt as the current Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué adopted by the extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the permanent representative level on 5 April 2023 concerning the Israeli attacks on the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 and 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osama **Abdelkhalek**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 6 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Communiqué issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at the level of permanent representatives at its extraordinary session concerning Israeli attacks against the sanctity of the Aqsa Mosque, which constitute flagrant and reprehensible violations of international law and international humanitarian law

The Council of the League of Arab States met in extraordinary session at the level of permanent representatives on 5 April 2023. The session was chaired by the Arab Republic of Egypt and held at the request of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in coordination with the State of Palestine and the Arab Republic of Egypt (chair of the Ministerial Council) to discuss Arab and international action to address the brutal Israeli crimes and attacks on the lives and holy places of the Palestinian people in the occupied city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine.

The Council affirmed that it:

1. Strongly condemns the crimes being committed by the Israeli occupation forces against unarmed Muslim worshippers at the Aqsa Mosque, which have escalated dangerously during the past few days of the holy month of Ramadan and led to hundreds of injuries and arrests of persons practicing ritual seclusion at the mosque, and incursions and deliberate desecration of the Aqsa Mosque by Israeli officials and extremist settlers under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces;
2. Rejects and condemns all Israeli violations of Islamic and Christian holy sites and, in particular, attempts to alter the historical and legal status quo at the Aqsa Mosque, divide it spatially and temporally, turn away Muslim worshippers, or undermine their freedom to pray there; to take control of Jordanian Islamic Waqf Administration in occupied Jerusalem, attack staff members and prevent them from doing their jobs; and to impose Israeli law on the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif; and reaffirms the right of Muslims and Christians to safe and unrestricted access to their places of worship to perform their religious obligations freely in the Aqsa Mosque and churches in occupied Jerusalem;
3. Holds accountable Israel, the occupying Power, for the consequences of these crimes and measures, which undermine freedom of worship at Islamic and Christian holy sites in the city of Jerusalem, above all at the Aqsa Mosque, and which constitute flagrant violations of United Nations resolutions, international law and international humanitarian law; and warns that these attacks and crimes are a blatant provocation against the sensibilities of believers everywhere that risks igniting a spiral of violence that could threaten security and stability in the region and the world;
4. Reaffirms the importance of the historical Hashemite Jordanian custodianship of Islamic and Christian holy sites in the city of Jerusalem, which plays a major role in protecting those sites and maintaining their historical and legal status; and reiterates that the Jerusalem Waqf and Aqsa Mosque Affairs Administration of Jordan is the sole authority entrusted with administering the affairs of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif;
5. Salutes, hails and pays tribute to the Palestinian people of Jerusalem, who stand steadfast in the occupied city of Jerusalem as they defend, unarmed, the Aqsa

Mosque and Islamic and Christian holy sites against the brutal and systematic crimes and acts of aggression committed by the occupying Israeli forces in the Holy City;

6. Calls on the United Nations, including the Security Council, to shoulder its legal, moral and humanitarian responsibilities to bring an immediate halt to this Israeli aggression, provide international protection to the Palestinian people, and protect their right to freedom of worship;

7. Demands implementation of resolutions on the Palestinian question issued by the Executive Council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which stress that the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif, over its entire 144-dunum area, is a dedicated place of worship for Muslims only and an integral part of the world's cultural heritage sites;

8. Stresses that member States are determined to take the necessary steps and measures at all levels, including by engaging in intensive diplomatic action, such as writing letters, reaching out to contacts and holding bilateral meetings, in order to protect the city of Jerusalem, defend its Islamic and Christian holy sites, and support the political, social, economic and humanitarian rights of its people;

9. Calls for coordination between the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to protect the occupied city of Jerusalem from the policies and systematic attacks of Israel;

10. Calls on the councils of Arab ambassadors and the missions of the League to launch an intensive diplomatic effort to convey the substance of the present communiqué to the capitals of influential countries around the world;

11. Calls on the Arab groups at the United Nations, the Human Rights Council and UNESCO to initiate consultations and the necessary measures to confront and put a stop to systematic Israeli attacks in the occupied city of Jerusalem;

12. Calls for the Council to remain in permanent session to follow up developments on the aggressive plans of Israel.

(Statement No. 251 – 5 April 2023)