



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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I. UNRWA DEEPLY CONCERNED BY ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES' OPERATION IN JENIN CAMP

On 3 July, 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) in the West Bank is deeply concerned by the impact of the ongoing Israeli Security Forces (ISF) operation which commenced this morning in the densely populated Jenin refugee camp. This follows another operation in the camp on 19 June, that left four Palestinians killed and 91 others injured.

News coming from Jenin reported that a large number of Israeli Security Forces surrounded and entered Jenin camp for Palestine Refugees, which led to heavy armed clashes in the targeted area between Palestinian armed actors and the ISF.

The operation led to the deaths of eight Palestinians (among them five Palestine Refugees) and the wounding of 50, according to initial reports from the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health. In addition, extensive damage to the camp infrastructure was reported, including damage to its water network. Water and electricity services have been interrupted in large areas of the camp, leaving camp residents unable to move from their homes. Many are in urgent need of food, drinking water and milk powder for children.

UNRWA runs 10 installations, operated by 90 Agency staff members in Jenin camp. All UNRWA installations, including four schools and one health centre, were unable to operate due to the heavy exchange of fire.

UNRWA cannot yet confirm if any of its installations were affected, nor can the Agency confirm the final number of casualties among Palestine Refugees in Jenin camp.

Urgent action is required to ensure those injured have access to medical care. UNRWA repeats its call to all parties to break this cycle of increasing violence, which dangerously fuels instability.

II. OIC CONDEMNS ISRAELI WAR CRIMES IN JENIN

On 3 July, the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) issued the following [statement](#).

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation expressed its strong condemnation of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the city of Jenin and its camp against unarmed civilians, medical personnel and health centres, the destruction of infrastructure and the demolition of homes and mosques. It considered this heinous crime as an extension of the record of crimes and organized state terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people.

Furthermore, the OIC held the Israeli occupation directly responsible for the repercussions of this heinous crime that called for investigation and accountability. At the same time, it called on

the UN Security Council to assume its responsibility, enforce its relevant resolutions, put an end to this continued Israeli terrorism, and provide protection for the Palestinian people.

III. UN HUMAN RIGHTS HIGH COMMISSIONER CONDEMNS THE VIOLENCE IN THE OPT

On 4 July, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk issued the following [statement](#).

The recent operation in the Occupied West Bank and car ramming attack in Tel Aviv worryingly underscore an all too familiar pattern of events: that violence only begets more violence. The killing, maiming and the destruction of property must stop.

Overnight 3,000 Palestinians reportedly fled Jenin camp after a wave of deadly air strikes on the camp. Then, this morning seven people were hurt in a car ramming attack in Tel Aviv.

The scale of the Israeli Security Forces' ongoing operation in Jenin, including the use of repeated airstrikes, along with the destruction of property, raises a host of serious issues with respect to international human rights norms and standards, including protecting and respecting the right to life.

Some of the methods and weapons used during the operations by ISF in the Jenin Refugee Camp and surrounding areas are more generally associated with the conduct of hostilities in armed conflict, rather than law enforcement. The use of airstrikes is inconsistent with rules applicable to the conduct of law enforcement operations. In a context of occupation, the deaths resulting from such airstrikes may also amount to wilful killings. Israeli forces operations in the occupied West Bank need to abide by international human rights standards on the use of force; these standards do not change simply because the goal of the operation is stated as "counter-terrorism".

International human rights law sets clear obligations on Israel, as the occupying power, to ensure that all operations are planned and controlled so as to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, resort to force and in particular lethal force. Israel must also ensure timely access to medical care to all those injured.

IV. ARAB LEAGUE CALLS FOR AN URGENT ACTION OVER THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION

On 4 July, the Extraordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Permanent Representatives Level adopted a [resolution](#) which is replicated below.

The Council of the League of Arab States convened an Extraordinary Session at the Permanent Representatives level on 4th July 2023, chaired by the Arab Republic of Egypt, at the headquarters of the League of Arab States, to discuss the ongoing and escalating Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in Palestinian cities, camps and villages, including the brutal Israeli aggression that has been going on since the dawn of yesterday, Monday 3rd July 2023 against the city and camp of Jenin and other areas in the occupied West Bank,

The Council,

Emphasizing the centrality of the Palestinian cause to the entire Arab nation; *supporting* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination and the right of Palestine refugees to return or compensation, their right to the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the lines of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-defence in the face of the Israeli aggression that targets their lives, holy places and properties, *Reaffirming* the protection of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque with its entire area of 144,000 square meters, as a place of worship for Muslims only; *rejecting* Israeli incursions into the Mosque, and its Judaizing excavations underneath and attempts to divide it temporally and spatially and alter the historical and legal status quo; *rejecting* Israeli violations of Islamic and Christian holy places; *affirming* the sovereignty of the State of Palestine over the city of Jerusalem and its holy places; *and supporting* the Hashemite Custodianship over Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and the role of Jerusalem Committee, as well as the historical and continuous efforts exerted by Egypt to achieve reconciliation based on the Arab mandate, in addition to Algeria's efforts to sign the Palestinian reunification agreement,

Strongly condemning the widespread Israeli aggression and crimes against the Palestinian people, including the aggression against the city and camp of Jenin and other Palestinian cities, villages and camps, which targeted civilians, children and women in residential areas,

Expressing full solidarity with the Palestinian people; *supporting* their resilience in the face of the ongoing and escalating Israeli aggression against them, as well as *supporting* their legitimate right to self-defence; *and extending condolences to* the families of the martyrs and victims of this aggression;

1. *Decides* to make high-level joint and bilateral visits, contacts, and letters to the Security Council, its members, and international decision-making centres, with the aim of implementing relevant international resolutions to end all forms of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and provide international protection, including Security Council Resolutions 2334 (2016), 904 (1994), and 605 (1987), and UN General Assembly Resolution 20/10-ES/RES/A (2018) and to hold Israel, the occupying Power, responsible for all the consequences of its aggression; *decides further*, in case that the Security Council is unable to perform its mandate and assume its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, to ask the UN General Assembly to hold a resumed session of the tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, entitled “Uniting for Peace”, in order to adopt the necessary resolutions to halt the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, implement the United Nations resolutions concerning international protection for the Palestinian people, and granting the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations;

2. *Calls for* an urgent Arab action, through the open-membership Arab ministerial committee, which has been tasked by the Arab Summit with, inter alia, taking action at the international level to provide international protection for the Palestinian people, in order to initiate an intense Arab diplomatic action, through the councils of Arab ambassadors and League of Arab States missions, as well as through official channels with permanent members of the Security Council and international decision-making centres, to express the Arab position to take the

necessary steps to end the Israeli occupation and all of its aggressive policies, practices, and measures against the Palestinian people;

3. *Calls upon* the International Criminal Court to fulfil its responsibilities under the Rome Statute, upon which the Court was established, regarding the conclusion of the criminal prosecution for war crimes and crimes against humanity that have been, and continue to be, committed by Israel against the defenceless Palestinian people, including the crimes of settlement and annexation, the aggression against cities, villages, and camps, the killing of civilians, journalists and paramedics, and forced displacement; *and calls on* the Court to investigate all options for exercising its jurisdiction in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, to complete its investigation, and provide all human and material resources for this investigation and to give it due priority;

4. *Urges* the international community, States and institutions alike, to engage in the protection of Palestinian civilians and to constitute a practical and effective mechanism for implementing the General Assembly Resolution 20/10-ES/RES/A (2018); *calls on* the United Nations Secretary-General to take tangible and effective measures to protect Palestinian civilians; *and calls upon* the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to assume their responsibilities and to ensure respect for and enforcement of the Convention in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, through halting Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

5. *Calls on* the international community to put pressure on Israel, the occupying Power, to allow the ongoing Independent International Commission of Inquiry, established by the Human Rights Council on 21st May 2021, to enter the occupied territory of the State of Palestine so as to investigate all Israeli crimes and violations committed in the occupied Palestinian territory; *and calls upon* the Commission to follow and record all Israeli violations and crimes within its mandate and to submit reports and recommendations in this regard;

6. *Supports* all steps, measures and decisions taken by the Palestinian leadership to confront the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people; including the Israeli aggression against the city and camp of Jenin;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of this Resolution to the next Session of the Council of the League;

8. *Decides to* keep the Council in a permanent session to follow up on the implementation of this Resolution.

V. UNICEF DEPLORES ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN JENIN

On 4 July, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Adele Khodr, issued the following [statement](#).

UNICEF is deeply concerned by the recent escalation of violence in Jenin, in the West Bank. According to the latest reports, at least three children were killed yesterday, and many others were injured, while hundreds of families have been displaced by the ongoing fighting. In the local refugee camp, critical utilities, such as water and electricity, are interrupted.

UNICEF deplores all acts of violence against children and calls for the immediate cessation of armed violence. Children must always be protected from all forms of violence, and grave violations, and all parties have an obligation to protect civilians – especially children – according to international humanitarian and human rights laws.

In the last two years, children have witnessed recurrent cycles of violence with three escalations in and around the Gaza Strip and numerous conflict-related incidents in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. UNICEF is particularly concerned by the increase of violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. As of the beginning of 2023, 33 children – 27 Palestinians and 6 Israelis were killed. These numbers are almost as high as for the entire year of 2022, which was already considered the deadliest year for children in the West Bank since 2004.

Grave violations against children, including killing and maiming, are unacceptable. UNICEF urges all parties to afford children the special protection they are entitled to, protect their right to life, and refrain from using violence, especially against children, no matter who or where they are. An end to recurring violence is the best way to ensure children can grow up in peace and safety.”

VI. UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS SAY ISRAELI OPERATIONS IN JENIN MAY CONSTITUTE A WAR CRIME

The following [statement](#) was issued on 5 July by Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and Reem Alsalem, Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls.

Israeli air strikes and ground operations in the occupied West Bank targeting the Jenin Refugee camp and killing at least 12 Palestinians may prima facie constitute a war crime, UN experts said today.

“Israeli forces’ operations in the occupied West Bank, killing and seriously injuring the occupied population, destroying their homes and infrastructure, and arbitrarily displacing thousands, amount to egregious violations of international law and standards on the use of force and may constitute a war crime,” the experts said.

Between 3 and 4 July, Israeli forces killed at least 12 Palestinians, including five children, and injured more than 100 Palestinians, in one of Israel’s biggest military operations in the occupied West Bank in years. The attacks forced thousands of Palestinians to flee and damaged infrastructure, houses and apartment buildings.

“The attacks were the fiercest in the West Bank since the destruction of the Jenin camp in 2002,” the UN experts said.

They pointed to multiple reports about ambulances being prevented from accessing Jenin Refugee Camp to evacuate the wounded, hampering their access to medical assistance.

Around 4,000 Palestinians reportedly fled the Jenin Refugee Camp overnight on Monday and Tuesday after the deadly air strikes.

“It is heart-breaking to see thousands of Palestinian refugees originally displaced since 1947-1949, forced to march out of the camp in abject fear at the dead of night,” the experts said.

Denouncing so-called “counter terrorism” operations by Israeli forces, the experts said the attacks found no justification under international law.

“The attacks constitute collective punishment of the Palestinian population, who have been labelled a “collective security threat” in the eyes of Israeli authorities,” they said.

They expressed grave concern about military weaponry and tactics deployed by Israel’s occupation forces at least twice over the last two weeks against Jenin’s population.

“The Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory are protected persons under international law, guaranteed of all human rights including the presumption of innocence,” the experts said. “They cannot be treated as a collective security threat by the occupying Power, all the more while it advances the annexation of occupied Palestinian land, and displacement and dispossession of its Palestinian residents.”

The experts said Israel’s operations in Jenin were amplifications of the structural violence that has permeated the occupied Palestinian territory for decades.

“The impunity that Israel has enjoyed for its acts of violence over decades, only fuel and intensify the recurring cycle of violence,” they said.

The UN experts called for Israel to be held accountable under international law for its illegal occupation and violent acts to perpetuate it.

“For this relentless violence to end, Israel’s illegal occupation must end. It cannot be corrected or improved in the margins, because it is wrong to the core,” they said.

VII. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE REPORT

On 6 July, the United Nations Human Rights Committee issued the following [press release](#) concerning its consideration of the initial periodic [report](#) (CCPR/C/PSE/1) of the State of Palestine, excerpted below.

The Human Rights Committee this morning concluded its consideration of the initial periodic report of the State of Palestine on how it implements the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with Committee Experts commending the creation of an observatory to combat gender-based violence, and raising issues concerning the death penalty and reported targeting of political opponents, journalists and human rights defenders who exercised freedom of expression.

A Committee Expert said that the creation of the National Online Observatory of Gender-Based Violence was commendable.

Another Expert asked about draft legislation concerning the death penalty. What were its tenants, what was its status and was there a timeline for its implementation? Reportedly, the State party would rather regulate the death penalty than abolish it for lack of political will. Would it consider abolishing the death penalty altogether?

One Committee Expert noted with concern reports that political opponents, journalists and human rights defenders who dissented from the Government were targeted based on their social media posts. Speaking critically of the Government was a legitimate exercise of free speech. What steps would the State party take to protect journalists and others who exercised freedom of expression through social media or otherwise, including those who criticised the Government?

Mohammad Fahad S.A. Shalaldeh, Minister of Justice and head of the delegation, said the recent demolition of homes, and the killings and displacement of civilians in Jenin were crimes against humanity. The dialogue was taking place in a context of the continuing Israeli civilian and military occupation of Palestine, whose people were denied their basic human rights. Palestine believed that incorporating the rights and freedoms inscribed in international human rights treaties into its policy and legislation was necessary. The Covenant could soon be signed by President Abbas and 11 other treaties had been published in the official gazette. Mr. Shalaldeh called on the Committee to pressure the occupying power to allow occupied Jerusalem to participate in general elections.

In the ensuing discussion, the delegation, in response to Experts' questions, said that the death penalty was in the penal codes applied in civil and military courts. Since 2005 it had not been implemented, however. Following the instructions of the President, death sentences had been frozen or converted into life or other sentences. A draft code had been proposed that would abolish the death penalty in the military code. It would be addressed during the next Legislative Council. All capital punishment in Gaza was beyond the control of the Government.

Palestinians believed in plurality and freedom of expression, the delegation said. Prominent journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was deliberately murdered by the occupier while the world watched. Palestinians did not behave in this way and respected the work of journalists. No Palestinians could

burn any holy book or slander any faith, unlike settlers who had burned mosques in Turmus. Freedom of expression was protected by law in Palestine.

In concluding remarks, Mr. Shalaldeh said the crucial and objective questions of the Committee had been met with frank and honest responses by the delegation. The State of Palestine would respond to the shortcomings raised in the dialogue with appropriate measures, both legislative and non-legislative, to ensure implementation the Covenant without discrimination based on race, nationality, religion or any other category.

Tania María Abdo Rocholl, Committee Chairperson, in concluding remarks, said the dialogue was an important tool to understand the Covenant's implementation in the State of Palestine. Issues addressed during the dialogue included discrimination; marital rape and gender-based violence; independence of the judiciary; the right to peaceful assembly; training of law enforcement; political violence; and the right to privacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

The delegation of the State of Palestine was made up of representatives of the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Interior; the Central Bureau of Statistics; the High Judicial Council; the Anti-Corruption Commission; the Public Prosecution; and the and the Permanent Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

VIII. UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADOPTS A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DATABASE OF BUSINESSES INVOLVED IN SETTLEMENTS

On 6 July, the Human Rights Council adopted the following [draft resolution](#).

53/... Implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 31/36

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter and as elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable instruments,

Reaffirming also that Human Rights Council mandates should be implemented and adequately funded without interference of any kind,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 31/36 of 24 March 2016, in which the Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to produce a database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,¹

¹ A/HRC/22/63.

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate the financial and human resources and expertise necessary to enhance the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that the mandate given by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 31/36 is fully implemented, and requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that the yearly updates of the database include addition and removal of companies, and to present the database on an annual basis to the Council starting from its fifty-seventh session;
2. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

IX. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL STRONGLY CONDEMNS MOUNTING VIOLENCE AND ACTS OF TERROR

On 6 July, addressing correspondents at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Secretary-General António Guterres said the [following](#).

...

I was deeply disturbed by the news from Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

I strongly condemn all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror.

Israel's airstrikes and ground operations in a crowded refugee camp were the worst violence in the West Bank in many years, with a significant impact on civilians, including more than one hundred injured and thousands forced to flee.

Schools and hospitals were damaged. Water and electricity networks were disrupted. And people in need were prevented from accessing essential care and relief.

All those injured must have access to medical care, and humanitarian workers must be able to reach everyone in need.

I once again call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law, including the duty to exercise restraint and use only proportional force, and the duty to minimize damage and injury and respect and preserve human life.

The use of airstrikes is inconsistent with the conduct of law enforcement operations.

I also remind Israel, as the Occupying Power, that it has a responsibility to ensure that the civilian population is protected against all acts of violence.

I understand Israel's legitimate concerns with its security. But escalation is not the answer. It simply bolsters radicalization and leads to a deepening cycle of violence and bloodshed.

Restoring the hope of the Palestinian people in a meaningful political process, leading to a two-State solution and the end of the occupation, is an essential contribution by Israel to its own security.

...

X. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL: THE ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATION IN JENIN WAS THE MOST INTENSE IN OVER TWO DECADES

The following is a [statement](#) by Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was issued on 6 July.

The Israeli military operation of 4-5 July in Jenin was the most intense in over two decades. For many of the camp's residents it brought back horrific memories from 2002 when the camp witnessed one of the most severe rounds of violence during the second intifada. Families told my UNRWA colleagues that the situation made them feel helpless and frightened for their and their children's lives.

The camp sustained significant damage – the streets are full of rubble; electricity and water are cut in most parts of the camp and many houses have been destroyed. Today, we had to set up a temporary health point because a major part of the UNRWA health center was destroyed during the operation. The Jenin municipality, local authorities have started a massive clean-up operation to remove the rubble and clear the roads. However, I am extremely concerned that possible unexploded ordinances remain which place the lives of residents and humanitarian aid groups at risk.

Right now, our priority is to restore basic services in the camp and to support those whose homes were damaged with emergency cash assistance. It is essential that we repair our own buildings and re-open four UNRWA schools which provide education for 1,700 children and a health centre where residents get primary care. To make sure this happens, UNRWA is rapidly deploying more teams and assistance to support residents and the local authorities.

UNRWA needs the support of its partners and donors to help rebuild and rehabilitate its structures and the homes of Palestine Refugees. One donor, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has already pledged funding, and I am calling on others to step in, especially as the Agency faces what will be an unsurmountable financial challenge now, after this latest dramatic development in Jenin.

Too many lives have already been lost in 2023 in the West Bank, among them Palestine Refugees, including children. It is time for people in the West Bank to have peace after decades of pain, destruction, violence, forced displacement and loss of life. It is time to reach a peaceful political solution that will put an end to one of the longest conflicts in recent history and that will also address the plight of Palestine Refugees.

XI. UN HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ADDRESSES SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

The conclusions and recommendations of the advance unedited version of the [report](#) of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, [presented](#) to the Human Rights Council on 10 July is replicated below.

VII. Conclusions

94. Under Israeli occupation, generations of Palestinians have endured widespread and systematic arbitrary deprivation of liberty, often for the simplest acts of life. Since 1967, over 800,000 Palestinians, including children, have been detained based on an array of authoritarian rules enacted, enforced and adjudicated by the Israeli military. Palestinians are often presumed guilty without evidence, arrested without warrants, and detained without charge or trial. Physical and psychological abuse are distressingly common. Without condoning crimes that Palestinians have committed during decades of illegal occupation, most criminal convictions of Palestinians have been the result of a litany of violations of international law, including due process violations, that taint the legitimacy of the administration of justice by the occupying power. Many such convictions concern legitimate expressions of civil and political rights, and the right to resist an illegal foreign occupier.

95. By depriving Palestinians of the protections afforded by international law, the occupation reduces them to a ‘de-civilianized’ population, stripped of their status of protected persons and fundamental rights. Treating the Palestinians as a collective, incarcerable threat erodes their protection as ‘civilians’ under international law, deprives them of their fundamental freedoms, and expropriates their agency and ability to unite, self-govern and develop as a polity. Any Palestinian opposing this regime, from peaceful protesters to farmers trying to cultivate their lands, is perceived as a menace and considered detainable. This forces Palestinians into a permanent state of vulnerability.

96. Mass incarceration reinforces the power imbalance between the Palestinians and Israeli institutions and settlers, facilitating settler-colonial encroachment. By shifting from ‘the security of the occupying power’ to ‘the security of the occupation itself’, Israel has disguised ‘security’ as the permanent control over the territory it occupies and tries to annex. Law enforcement has served as a tool to ensure the imposition of Israel’s occupation and racial domination and the furtherance of its settler-colonial project. This has entrenched segregation, subjugation, fragmentation and, ultimately, the dispossession of Palestinian lands and Palestinians’ forced displacement. Intended primarily to secure colonies’ establishment and expansion, this system suffocates Palestinian life and undermines Palestinians’ collective existence.

97. Through an array of physical, bureaucratic, and digital mechanisms, the Israeli regime has turned the occupied territory into a ‘panopticon’, where Palestinians are constantly surveilled and disciplined. Within this system, typical of settler-colonial regimes, widespread and systematic arbitrary deprivation of liberty and cruel and degrading treatment on a large scale, appear to form part of Israel’s state policy of domination of the Palestinians as-a-people enforced also through beyond-prison confinement.

98. The widespread and systematic arbitrariness of the occupation's carceral regime is yet another manifestation of Israel's inherently illegal occupation and strengthens the need to hold it accountable, while bringing it to an end. It is critical that the international community recognizes that the unlawfulness of Israel's occupation cannot be remedied, or humanized, by reforming some of its most brutal consequences. Under the UN Charter and international law, particularly the law of state responsibility, third States have a duty not to contribute or condone Israel's settler-colonial apartheid, which criminalizes Palestinians for (re)claiming or refusing to forsake their collective right to exist as a people, and act to realize all conditions that would allow the Palestinian people to realise their rights including their inalienable right to self-determination.

VIII. Recommendations

The Special Rapporteur recommends that:

99. Israel's system of arbitrarily depriving Palestinians of their liberty in the occupied Palestinian territory, emanating from an irredeemably unlawful occupation, be abolished tout court, because of its inherent incompatibility with international law.

100. To achieve this goal, Third States:

(a) Use diplomatic, political and economic measures afforded by the Charter of the United Nations without discrimination.

(b) Not recognize as lawful, aid or assist Israel's occupation given its commission of internationally wrongful acts and possible international crimes, and call for their cessation and reparations.

(c) Prosecute the commission of international crimes alleged in this report under universal jurisdiction.

101. The State of Israel, as a first step towards long-term remedies for decades of arbitrary deprivation of liberty of the Palestinian people, take the following measures: (a) Declare a moratorium on the detention of minors.

(b) Release all Palestinian detainees, especially children, detained for acts devoid of offensiveness under international law.

(c) Release all withheld bodies of deceased Palestinians and guarantee dignified burials.

102. The Palestinian authorities fully comply with international norms on the deprivation of liberty. This includes:

(a) Ceasing any form of arbitrary detention, as well as torture and ill-treatment of detainees, ensuring both accountability and reparations to the victims. This includes the release of the bodies of deceased Israeli withheld in Gaza.

(b) Interrupting security arrangements that may lead to violating fundamental rights and freedoms under international law.

(c) Ensuring effective oversight and accountability measures including by strategically engaging local human rights organisations.

103. Independent and thorough investigation(s) into the possible commission of international crimes arising from the systematic arbitrary detention of Palestinians be opened, including through universal jurisdiction. In particular, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court should examine, as part of the investigation into the Situation in Palestine, the possible commission of the international crimes of:

- (a) willful deprivation of protected persons' right to fair and regular trial,
- (b) widespread and institutionalized use of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,
- (c) unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement,
- (d) imprisonment or severe arbitrary deprivation of liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law,
- (e) persecution against an identifiable group or collectivity by reason of its identity,

XII. UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS CONDEMN FORCED EVICTION OF EAST JERUSALEM FAMILIES AS POSSIBLE WAR CRIME

On 12 July, Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967; Reem Alsalem, Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences; Ashwini K.P, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism; Dorothy Estrada Tanck (Chair), Ivana Radačić (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Broderick, Meskerem Geset Techane and Melissa Upreti, members of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls; Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; Surya Deva, Special Rapporteur on the right to development, Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, issued the following [statement](#).

The forced eviction and displacement of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family and many other Palestinian families in east Jerusalem may amount to a war crime of forcible transfer and must be immediately reversed, UN experts said today.

“It is deeply shocking and heartbreaking to see Nora Ghaith and Mustafa Sub Laban, an older Palestinian couple, evicted from their family home where they have lived all their lives and raised their children,” the UN experts said.

Israeli police forcibly evicted Nora Ghaith and Mustafa Sub Laban from their home in the Old City of Jerusalem in the early hours of 11 July. The Ghaith-Sub Laban family, who had a protected lease on the house since 1953, reportedly faced constant harassment and lawsuits from Israeli authorities and settlers seeking to seize their home under an inherently discriminatory law that applies to Palestinians in east Jerusalem.

“As we have repeatedly [said](#), forced evictions of Palestinians in east Jerusalem are part of Israel’s apartheid machinery at work, designed to consolidate Jewish ownership of Jerusalem and racially dominate the city’s population,” the experts said.

They stressed that the case of the Ghaith Sub-Laban family is not unique but is representative of a widespread and systematic practice by Israel to forcibly evict and displace Palestinians from east Jerusalem and “de-palestinize” the city. Across east Jerusalem, there are reportedly around 150 Palestinian families at risk of forced eviction and displacement by Israeli authorities and settler organisations.

“Israel’s transfer of its own population into the occupied territory is a gross violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime,” the experts said. “Nothing speaks more blatantly of its intention to annex and colonise the occupied territory in violation of international law.”

“Israel must immediately cease these deliberate acts, which not only deliberately violate Palestinians’ rights to self-determination, non-discrimination, development, adequate housing and property, but also traumatise the affected family and the entire Palestinian community living defenceless under Israeli rule, and violate the fundamental norms and principles of international law,” they said. “It is the duty of other States to put an end to the unrelenting assaults on the system of international law.”

The experts have repeatedly raised these issues with the Government of Israel without any response to date.

XIII. UN PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE AND OIC HOLD CONFERENCE ENTITLED “THE IMPACT OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICIES ON THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION IN JERUSALEM”

On 20 July, the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), in cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held the International [Conference](#) on the Question of Jerusalem under the theme “The impact of Israeli settlement policies on the Palestinian population in Jerusalem”. The following is the [Chair’s summary](#) of the event.

The International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem “**The impact of Israeli settlement policies on the Palestinian population in Jerusalem**” was convened virtually, on 20 July 2023, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) in cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The event was chaired by Ambassador Cheikh Niang, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations. It consisted of an opening session with remarks by Mr. Khaled Khiari, United Nations Assistant-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Mr. Ali Goutali, representing the Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine & Al-Quds Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); and Mr. Riyadh Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations.

The panel consisted of Mr. Munir Nuseibah, Director of Al-Quds Human Rights Clinic and Community Action Centre; Dr. Dov Baum, Director of Economic Activism, American Friends Service Committee; Mr. Josh Ruebner, Director of Government Relations at the Institute for Middle East Understanding; and Ms. Nur Arafah, Fellow at the Malcom H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Centre. Member States participated in the two-hour event on the Zoom platform. The conference was broadcast on UN WebTV and UN YouTube and the public had an opportunity pose questions to the panellists.

In his introductory remarks, **the Chair** stated that Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem as well as demolitions and seizure of Palestinian homes and structures, constituted flagrant violations of UN resolutions and international law. Settlements were a major obstacle to the achievement of a two-State solution and a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. He reiterated that the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretary-General had reaffirmed that any action taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration of the City of Jerusalem were illegal; he further called for a negotiated solution on the status of Jerusalem as a pre-requisite for a solution to the question of Palestine and a just and lasting peace. Jerusalem remained a symbol of the systematic attempt by Israel to entrench its occupation and change the demographic fabric of the City, and increasing settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem had to be addressed. A case in point was the recent eviction of the Sub Laban family, who had been living in East Jerusalem for generations and had fought in Israeli courts since 1978 against eviction from their home in the Muslim quarters.

Mr. Khaled Khiari highlighted the relevance of the conference's theme, as the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) continued to witness deadly escalations and confrontations. He underlined that Israel's ongoing settlement expansion was of grave concern as were recent amendments by the Israeli government to the settlement planning process to expedite building of more housing units. Settlements contravened international law, entrenched the occupation and increased frustration and friction driving violence and conflict, while undermining the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, he said. Mr. Khiari called on Israel to immediately cease all settlement activity and fully respect its obligations under international law.

Ambassador Ali Goutali welcomed the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights update of the businesses database operating in Israeli settlements in the OPT. Similarly, he expressed the OIC's appreciation for the recent European Parliament's position calling for its member states to recognize Palestinian statehood and to support the International Criminal Court's investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the OPT. The OIC called on the international community to pressure Israel into ensuring compliance with and respect for its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. The international community must take decisive action to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its violations.

Ambassador Riyad Mansour warned against the extremism of Israel's current cabinet, particularly the Ministries of Finance and Security. Settlers were openly advocating for the occupation of Palestinian villages - such as Huwara and Turmusayya – and with the support of the government, they were allegedly establishing a militia of 1,000 members to intensify their attacks and eliminate the Palestinian presence from the OPT. He lamented the narrative of Israel's Minister of Finance, Mr. Bezalel Smotrich, who published a radical manifesto entitled

“Israel’s Decisive Plan” advocating for the expulsion of Palestinians seeking an independent State. He further regretted the international community’s reiteration of statements on the importance of the two-State solution without taking practical steps to implement UN Security Council resolutions and calls on Israel to stop settlement expansion and demolitions. Ambassador Mansour called on the Arab States, the OIC, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and others to resort to practical measures beyond the repetition of the same statements.

Ambassador Mansour mentioned the State of Palestine’s legal submission to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an advisory opinion, which had garnered the support of more than fifty Member States. The ICJ would decide on the legal consequences of the prolonged illegal occupation, including the annexation of East Jerusalem and threats of annexation of Area C, as well as the expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied West Bank. He expressed the hope that the ICJ would define the ongoing violations against the Palestinian people as apartheid.

Panel Discussion

Mr. Munir Nuseibah reminded of the status of Jerusalem under international law as “occupied since 1948” and explained that Israel’s sovereignty was not recognized by the international community. However, Israel had continued to impose discriminatory laws on the Palestinian Jerusalemites, such as the Absentee Property Law (1950) and the Legal and Administrative Matters Law (1970). Likewise, the commemoration of the Nakba by the CEIRPP, on 15 May 2023, was an opportunity to highlight the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from the Western part of Jerusalem and the dispossession of their property in application of the abovementioned laws – all leading to changing the demographic character of mandate Palestine.

Since the Nakba, individual Palestinian families have battled the Legal and Administrative Matters Law, which allowed Israelis to claim property in East Jerusalem dating back to pre-1948. He mentioned the example of Sheikh Jarrah, which consisted of twenty houses previously built by UNRWA for Palestinian families who had been displaced from the West Bank. Jewish settler organizations have been claiming ownership of the land for decades, triggering international condemnation. Similarly, in Silwan, and particularly Batn al-Hawa community, the Israeli General Custodian dispossessed several Palestinian residents of their lands and put them under the risk of forced eviction.

Mr. Nuseibah defined these laws and subsequent developments as part of Israel’s apartheid system. He called on the UN General Assembly to address explicitly the issue of apartheid and referred to former UN Special Rapporteur Michael Lynk’s recommendation to reactivate the UN Special Committee against Apartheid to investigate Israeli crimes in the OPT.

Dr. Dov Baum spoke of the corporations’ complicity in economic settlement activities and settler-colonialism through activities ranging from building settlements, providing the military with technological tools, enabling the privatization of state operations such as dispossessing and destroying civilian property. Dr. Baum mentioned the non-governmental organization Who Profits’ database containing 500 companies involved in Israeli settlements, as well as the American Friends Service Committee’s “Investigate. Info”, and the OHCHR publication of the list of 112 companies involved in settlement activities, in implementation of Human Rights Council Resolution 31/36.

Dr. Baum underlined the limited number of companies listed by OHCHR in its recent update, in which fifteen companies were taken off the list without new ones being added. The list lacked large corporations publicly and actively involved in settlement activities in the OPT. Dr. Baum gave the example of “General Mills”, operating in Atarot industrial zone in East Jerusalem, and which, following the publication of OHCHR database and advocacy of grassroots organizations, had committed to stop sourcing its products from the Atarot factory. It was explained that the purpose of these grassroots campaigns was to make those multinational companies improve their human rights and businesses policies.

Dr. Baum briefly introduced the recently published report “Dispossession through bureaucracy in Occupied Jerusalem” by “Who Profits from Occupation” in February of this year. The report tackled the “Judaization” of Jerusalem through punitive bureaucratic processes such as residency, land and property registration laws – all considered discriminatory towards Palestinian residents. The companies listed in the report should be considered as an example for the expansion of the scope of corporate accountability and crimes of apartheid beyond economic settlement activities and include their responsibility in the restrictions of civil liberties and administrative discriminatory processes imposed on Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Josh Ruebner highlighted how Israel’s settler-colonialism laws, policies and practices have sought to uproot and dispossess the indigenous Palestinian people from their lands – frequently fitting the definition of “apartheid”, as enshrined in the 1973 UN International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Despite a consensus on Israel’s responsibilities, the United States have failed to sanction Israel. On the contrary, they have contributed to entrench Israeli policies towards the Palestinian people. He mentioned the US Congress’ bipartisan standing ovation to Israeli President Isaac Herzog a few days prior and its failure to mention the country’s military rule over millions of Palestinians in the OPT. Similarly, the Biden administration had failed to reverse the US declaration on Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Dozens of members of the US Congress had signed multiple letters over the years protesting US support for Israel’s ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from East Jerusalem. However, the current US administration had taken no action or response such as halting Israel’s illegal use of weapons. At the same time, growing numbers of members of Congress were naming Israeli policies as “apartheid”. Domestic public opinion was also growing in support of Palestinian rights, as indicated by a recent survey conducted by the Brookings Institute.

Mr. Ruebner called on the UN to urge the United States to fulfil its third-party obligations to hold accountable perpetrators of Israeli apartheid and to seek the reestablishment of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid for effective recommendations, including placing an arms embargo on Israel.

Ms. Nur Arafah reiterated that Jerusalem was a microcosm of Israel’s apartheid regime and its settler colonial regime seeking to displace the Palestinian population and expand Jewish domination over the City. This settler colonial project was a continuous practice, with the goal of transforming a multicultural and multireligious Jerusalem into a unified Jewish city under exclusive Israeli control and sovereignty. She referred to John Collins’ book “Global Palestine” to highlight that Israel’s occupation strategy focused around four logics: the elimination of

Palestinian indigenous presence in East Jerusalem; the expansion through land acquisition with the annexation of the West Bank territory, including East Jerusalem, and the establishment of illegal settlements; the denial of historical Palestinian indigenous presence; and the logic of exceptionalism exemplified by the claim that the Jewish population represented the “chosen people”. The denials were also based on the manipulation of history and archaeology as powerful political tools to recreate and manufacture Jerusalem as a Jewish city.

In the ensuing discussion moderated by Ms. Arafah, speakers agreed on the existence of an apartheid regime in the City based on the structural domination of one group over another through violations of residency, family reunification and property rights. There was a need for action by the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council to begin defining Israeli ongoing violations as “apartheid”. The panellists supported the grassroots call to revive the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, as it would provide a holistic way of understanding Israeli policies towards the Palestinians not only in the OPT. Such policies included Israel’s Nation-State Law stating that only Jewish people can enjoy the right to self-determination. The revived UN Committee would also provide a space for Member States to reflect on multilateral actions that could help overcome the US veto in the Security Council, and replicate tools such as comprehensive sanctions and arms embargo used to end South Africa’s Apartheid. On the OHCHR database of companies complicit of the Israeli settlement enterprise, the mere publication of the list represented a powerful tool to sensitize the companies on human rights violations and the need to disinvest in settlements. Its yearly update and publication remained critical.

During the Questions and Answers session that followed the discussion, the Permanent Observer of **the Arab League** to the United Nations explained the need for legal recognition of Israel’s apartheid system in an advisory opinion by the ICJ, to enable a General Assembly resolution on the reactivation of the UN Special Committee. While advocating for a GA referral to the ICJ, he called on Member States to continue their advocacy to the Security Council on the protection of Palestinian civilians and the status of Jerusalem. The representative of **Cuba** called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities to provide protection to the Palestinian people and to pressure Israel to cease its repeated attacks on civilians and infrastructure. Questions from viewers in Cyprus and Mali inquired about the role of the ICJ in ending Israeli illegal occupation; the international community’s next steps in bringing Israeli accountability and civil society’s contribution in addressing the costs of occupation.

From East Jerusalem, **Rafat Sub Laban**, a member of a recently evicted East Jerusalemite family and a human rights lawyer, shared the story of his family’s eviction from their home in the Muslim quarter in the Old City. The 47 long-year legal battle leading to the eviction highlighted how Israeli courts, the Jerusalem municipality, the Antiquities Department, the Ministry of Interior, and the police work hand by hand with Jewish settler organizations for the forcible transfer of Palestinians in East Jerusalem to change the City’s demographic makeup and increase Jewish presence. He warned that the ethnic cleansing and forcible transfer committed in a systematic manner to expand the new Jewish quarter was spreading to other areas in the West Bank, such as South Hebron hills and Nablus. Mr. Sub Laban called on the UN to act for an end to settler colonialism that had been happening for seventy-five years.

The Chair concluded by thanking the speakers for taking the time to participate in the briefing, sharing valuable information and insights, and answering the questions.

XIV. ECOSOC ADOPTS 2 RESOLUTIONS ON SOCIOECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN

The following are the texts of the two draft resolutions adopted on 26 July by the Economic and Social Council on the “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan” ([E/2023/L.34](#)) and on the “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women” ([E/2023/L.35](#)).

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (E/2023/L.34)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [77/126](#) of 12 December 2022 and [77/187](#) of 14 December 2022,

Recalling also its resolution [2022/22](#) of 22 July 2022,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [252 \(1968\)](#) of 21 May 1968, [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973, [465 \(1980\)](#) of 1 March 1980, [497 \(1981\)](#) of 17 December 1981 and [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions [ES-10/13](#) of 21 October 2003, [ES-10/14](#) of 8 December 2003, [ES-10/15](#) of 20 July 2004 and [ES-10/17](#) of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,¹

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,² to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of

* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [52/250](#) of 7 July 1998.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

¹ [A/78/86-E/2023/83](#).

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

³ See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁴ *Ibid.*

the Child,⁵ and affirming that these human rights instruments are applicable and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Noting with concern that more than 70 years have passed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution [181 \(II\)](#) of 29 November 1947 and 56 years since the occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Taking note, in this regard, of Palestine's accession to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions as well as other international treaties,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [425 \(1978\)](#) of 19 March 1978, [1397 \(2002\)](#) of 12 March 2002, [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003, [1544 \(2004\)](#) of 19 May 2004, [1850 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008 and [2334 \(2016\)](#), the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative⁶ and the Quartet road map,⁷ as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation, endangerment and depletion of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law and which, deplorably, continued during the reporting period,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve environmentally sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Expressing alarm, in this regard, about the extremely high levels of unemployment in the Gaza Strip in particular, which remains at over 40 per cent, with youth unemployment reaching 60 per cent, exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip on economic and social infrastructure and living conditions,

Commending, despite the many constraints, including the obstacles imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, the efforts of the Palestinian Government to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution 14/221.

⁷ [S/2003/529](#), annex.

of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which aims, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing that such illegal measures are main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,⁸

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,⁹ and General Assembly resolution [ES-10/15](#), and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Deploring all loss of innocent civilian life and injury to scores of civilians, and calling upon all parties to fully respect international law, including humanitarian and human rights

⁸ [A/HRC/22/63](#).

⁹ See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestine refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, stressing that the situation is unsustainable, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled “Gaza: two years after”, and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing of and injury to thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the consequent prolonged and extensive negative impact of the military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and of November 2012, on economic conditions, the

provision of social services and the social, humanitarian and physical living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, including the Palestine refugee population,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration and fulfilment of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, including of children, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for ill prisoners, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and all reports of torture,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure,

emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017–2022),

Expressing concern about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, owing to the negative impact of ongoing instability and the financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, as well as the vital assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, and Palestinian national reconciliation, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic, social and environmental conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multi-layered closure system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, and also calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;¹⁰

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and government institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, notably the provision of the electric power needed for the work of the northern Gaza emergency sewage treatment plant, and stresses in this regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the desalination facility project for the Gaza Strip;

¹⁰ See [A/49/180-S/1994/727](#), annex, entitled “Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area”, annex IV.

11. *Calls for* the assistance necessary for the safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip, which endangers Palestinian lives and negatively impacts the environment, as well as reconstruction and development efforts, and welcomes the efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to date;

12. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

13. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in this regard Security Council resolution [904 \(1994\)](#) of 18 March 1994 and stresses the need for its implementation;

14. *Also calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of prisoners and detainees, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees, and deplores the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calls for the release of the bodies that have not yet been returned to their relatives, in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law, in order to ensure dignified closure in accordance with their religious beliefs and traditions;

15. *Reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in General Assembly resolution [ES-10/15](#) and subsequent relevant resolutions;

16. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaytirah entrance;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

18. *Welcomes and urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians;

19. *Expresses appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance commensurate with increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs and in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of and need for increased and renewed international efforts on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [425 \(1978\)](#), [1397 \(2002\)](#), [1515 \(2003\)](#), [1544 \(2004\)](#), [1850 \(2008\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

22. *Decides* to include the item entitled “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan” in the agenda of its 2024 session.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/2023/L.35)

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Recalling its relevant resolutions and all other relevant United Nations resolutions,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [52/250](#) of 7 July 1998.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

¹ [A/78/86-E/2023/83](#).

Recalling also Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000, including its call upon all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, and its emphasis on the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity,

Recalling further the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,²

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women³ as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Reaffirming the obligations of States and all parties to armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and the need to end all violations of international humanitarian law and all violations and abuses of human rights,

Reaffirming also the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁴ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁵ the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,⁶ and the political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session,⁷ and reaffirming its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Reaffirming further the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, stressing the importance of women’s equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and welcoming in this regard the global call by international women leaders made on 1 July 2020,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, and its impact on women and girls,

Expressing grave concern also at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women, peaceful demonstrators and journalists, and emphasizing that civilian populations must be protected by all parties in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Strongly condemning, in this regard, the killing of the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, and stressing the need to promptly ensure accountability,

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

³ General Assembly resolution [48/104](#).

⁴ *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

⁵ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁶ General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2020, Supplement No. 7* ([E/2020/27](#)), chap. I, sect. A.

Stressing the need for the protection of civil society actors to allow them to conduct their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment from any party, and rejecting any attacks against civil society,

Stressing also the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Deeply concerned about violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, which is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, and its pervasiveness, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce stereotypes and gender inequality and the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres in all regions of the world, and re-emphasizing that violence against women and girls violates, and impairs their full enjoyment of, all human rights,

Noting the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties, and stressing the need to implement fully obligations under those instruments that protect the rights of women and girls, including during and post-conflict,

Noting also the importance of giving high priority to the swift adoption of the Family Protection Law to ensure that women and girls are protected from gender-based violence, including domestic violence,

Underlining the limitations on Palestinian jurisdiction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which undermine the ability of the Palestinian Government to protect Palestinian women and girls in certain areas,

Noting the importance of the agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in facilitating the advancement and empowerment of women in development in line with General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women and girls with regard to the fulfilment of their rights, and their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society;

2. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately cease all measures contrary to international law, as well as discriminatory legislation, policies and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, and stresses that Palestinian civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by the conflict;

3. *Calls for* urgent measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and as called for by the Security Council in its resolution [904 \(1994\)](#) of 18 March 1994;

4. *Calls upon* the parties to comply fully with their obligations, including as States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, taking fully into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Acknowledges* the contribution of national coalitions and committees in advancing women's rights, including those pertaining to resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), the Convention and combating violence against women;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Palestinian Government of a national action plan for the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) as well as of initiatives at the legislative, administrative and security levels to advance women's rights, notably in relation to family law and combating violence against women;

7. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families, including those living under Israeli occupation, and recognizes the importance of integrating gender considerations across humanitarian programming by seeking to ensure the provision of access to protection and the full range of medical, legal and livelihood and psychosocial services, including services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, without discrimination, and through ensuring that women and women's groups can participate equally and meaningfully and are supported in being leaders in humanitarian action;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services, bearing in mind, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁸ and national priorities, in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and deteriorating socioeconomic and psychosocial conditions in the Gaza Strip;

9. *Recalls* the need for all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, and stresses that the situation of the Palestine refugees, including women and girls, continues to be a matter of grave concern and that they continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs, pending a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#) of 11 December 1948;

10. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and urges in this regard the intensification and acceleration of renewed international and regional diplomatic efforts and support aimed at achieving, without delay, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of

⁸ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative,⁹ the Quartet road map¹⁰ and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967;

11. *Stresses* the importance of efforts to increase the role of Palestinian women in decision-making and of their full, equal and meaningful participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and encourages Member States and observer States as well as the United Nations system to ensure systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the crucial role of Palestinian women at all levels by, inter alia, promoting women's capacity, leadership, participation and engagement in political, economic and humanitarian decision-making and by improving the gender balance in senior civilian government positions and in security functions, while recognizing the need to protect women participating in public spaces from threats and reprisals;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report, and to include information on the gender-specific impact of the occupation and the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution in his report on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan to the Economic and Social Council at its 2024 session.

XV. UN SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS QUARTERLY OPEN DEBATE ON MIDEAST SITUATION, PALESTINIAN QUESTION

On 27 July, the Security Council held an open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Khaled Khiari delivered a [briefing](#). Ambassador Ahmad Faisal Muhamad, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, also made a [statement](#), which is reproduced below. The press release issued after the meeting can be found [here](#).

Assistant Secretary-General Khiari's Briefing

Since Special Coordinator Wennesland's last briefing to the Council on 27 June, the deterioration of the security situation in the occupied West Bank has continued, punctuated by a two-day Israeli operation in Jenin, the most intensive of its kind in nearly twenty years.

This deterioration is taking place alongside ongoing unilateral steps that undermine a two-State solution, the absence of a peace process and the continuing economic challenges facing Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority (PA). It is critical that all parties take urgent steps to stop the downward spiral and engage with each other to seek a constructive path forward.

⁹ [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution 14/221.

¹⁰ [S/2003/529](#), annex.

From 27 June through 24 July, in the occupied West Bank, 21 Palestinians, including five children, were killed and 249 Palestinians, including five women and 22 children, were injured by Israeli security forces during demonstrations, clashes, search-and-arrest operations, attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis, and other incidents. Another 20 Palestinians, including one woman and five children, were injured by Israeli settlers or other civilians in shooting attacks, stone-throwing and other incidents.

According to Israeli sources, two Israeli security forces personnel were killed, while another 39 Israelis, including four women, three children and eight Israeli security forces personnel, were injured by Palestinians in shooting and ramming attacks, clashes, the throwing of stones and Molotov cocktails, IEDs and other incidents.

The period saw a significant escalation in the ongoing wave of violence in the West Bank.

From 3 to 4 July in the Jenin Refugee Camp in Area A of the occupied West Bank, ISF carried out an operation, marked by multiple drone airstrikes and over 1,000 ground troops. Twelve Palestinians, including four children, were killed and over 140 injured – the most in a single operation in the West Bank since the UN began tracking casualties in 2005. According to eyewitnesses, a 17-year-old was killed was unarmed and not engaged in the fighting at the time he was shot. Palestinian Islamic Jihad's (PIJ) Al-Quds Brigades claimed eight of the twelve fatalities as members, including the 17-year-old and other children. Israeli authorities said that none of the Palestinians killed in the operation had been non-combatants. One Israeli soldier was killed by live fire, in circumstances that IDF said were unclear, and another was injured.

ISF said that they destroyed multiple caches of explosives and weapons, including two under a mosque, as well as operation centres used by militant groups. Targeted sites included locations adjacent to UN facilities and a school. In addition, exchanges of fire took place near a hospital and other health facilities, with reports of ISF firing tear gas in or around the facilities. The only UNRWA health clinic inside the camp was damaged and remains closed.

In addition, on 3 and 21 July, two Palestinians – including one child – were killed by ISF in clashes following protests near Beit El checkpoint north of Ramallah and in the village of Umm Safa, respectively. Also in Umm Safa, on 7 July, a Palestinian was killed by ISF during clashes following a confrontation between Palestinians and Israeli settlers. On the same day, two armed Palestinians, whom ISF accused of having perpetrated a shooting attack, were killed in an ISF operation in Nablus. On 20 July, ISF killed a Palestinian man during an armed exchange in Nablus during a heavily secured visit by Israelis, including Israel's Police Commissioner and settler leaders, to Joseph's Tomb, in accordance with established procedures.

Palestinians carried out a number of attacks or alleged attacks against Israelis, including: a 4 July ramming and stabbing attack in Tel Aviv that injured eight Israeli civilians, including a pregnant woman; and a shooting attack near the Kedumim settlement on 6 July, in which an Israeli soldier was killed; an attack on 10 July near the settlement of Halamish in which a Palestinian man allegedly shot and threw an explosive device towards ISF; and

on 21 July, an alleged ramming attack against Israeli soldiers in the village of Sebastiya. Four Palestinians were killed while carrying out such attacks.

In addition to the use of IEDs in Jenin, the period also witnessed Palestinians from the so-called al-Ayyash Brigades, for a second time in two weeks, attempting to launch rudimentary rockets from the Jenin area towards Israel or Israeli settlements on 10 July. Two rockets landed in open areas in Israel, with no damage or injuries reported.

Settler violence continued, albeit not at the scale witnessed in June. On the night of 3 July, Israeli settlers attacked Deir Dibwan village, near Ramallah; in subsequent confrontations, in the presence of ISF, Palestinians threw stones and settlers fired live ammunition, injuring one Palestinian. On 13 July, settlers assaulted Palestinian herders in Arab al-Kholi in the northern West Bank, injuring four elderly men, two in serious condition; at least one Israeli was injured.

Amid the escalating violence, Palestinian Security Forces (PSF) conducted a series of arrests across the occupied West Bank, including, on 17 July, of a senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader in Bethlehem accused of forming armed groups and a senior Hamas official from Tubas on 20 July. Both were subsequently released. In a 17 July statement, a PIJ spokesperson noted that ten of its members had been arrested by PSF to date.

While the situation in Gaza remained relatively calm, militants fired five rockets from Gaza towards Israel, responding to the operation in Jenin, on the night of 4 July. All were intercepted by Israel's aerial defence system, with shrapnel landing in the city of Sderot. In response, the Israeli Air Force carried out airstrikes against what it said were Hamas targets in the Strip. On both sides, property damage but no injuries were reported. On 3 and 4 July, during demonstrations near the security fence east of Gaza City, six Palestinians were injured by ISF, two by live ammunition.

Eight Israeli civilians were placed by Israeli authorities under administrative detention for their involvement in the violent attacks against Palestinians in June; and, on 12 July, Israeli authorities indicted an Israeli civilian and an off-duty Israeli soldier, on charges that include carrying out acts of terrorism against Palestinian civilians during the attacks in June. I reiterate that acts of terror and the targeting of civilians are unacceptable and must be condemned and rejected by all. All perpetrators of violence must be held accountable and swiftly brought to justice.

Israel has an obligation to protect Palestinians and their property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and ensure prompt, independent, impartial and transparent investigations into all acts of violence.

As the Secretary-General has noted, security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when strictly unavoidable to protect life.

I am appalled that children continue to be the victims of violence and that militant factions have claimed some as members. Children must never be the targets of violence, used or put in harm's way.

I also reiterate that the indiscriminate launching of rockets by Palestinian militants towards Israeli population centres is a violation of international humanitarian law and must cease immediately.

The humanitarian situation in the occupied West Bank remains concerning and the large ISF operation in Jenin Refugee Camp had a devastating humanitarian toll on the camp and its residents.

Over 460 houses were damaged, including 70 severely damaged or destroyed, and there was extensive damage to roads, as well as to water and sewage infrastructure. Around four kilometres of road were dug up by Israeli forces, which they said was to neutralize buried IEDs. Of the 3,500 residents who fled the violence, some 20 families remain internally displaced due to damage to their homes or lack of basic services.

Throughout the operation, access to the camp was limited by ISF to one entrance, initially hindering most ambulances from reaching casualties, and was fully restored on 5 July; though movement around the camp remains difficult due to the widespread damage and contamination by unexploded ordnance left by both sides.

Assessments by the UN and its humanitarian partners identified a number of priority needs, including: clearance of unexploded ordnance; restoration of water and sewage provision; food, rental and psychosocial assistance to the most affected families; restocking of medical supplies; and repair to schools and the UNRWA clinic.

The Palestinian Authority has committed to repairing the damages sustained in Jenin. Financial pledges have also been made by donors to help with the reconstruction, including USD30 million from Algeria to the Palestinian Authority and USD15 million from the United Arab Emirates through UNRWA.

Despite this generous response, severe funding shortages continue to curtail UN ability to provide support to Palestinians throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UNRWA faces a gap of some USD 200 million to maintain services from September onwards and USD 75 million to sustain the food pipeline in Gaza. In addition, the World Food Programme requires USD 41 million to continue providing assistance to the prioritized 350,000 Palestinians in need until the end of the year.

On 3 July, in response to the Israeli operation in Jenin, the Palestinian leadership adopted a number of decisions. These include freezing all contacts with Israel, including continuation of an announced suspension of security coordination, and stepping up Palestinian international efforts, including joining UN agencies and bodies and pursuing prosecution of Israel at the International Criminal Court. The leadership also called for a meeting of all Secretaries-General of Palestinian factions, scheduled for 30 July in Cairo.

On 12 July, President Mahmoud Abbas visited the Jenin refugee camp. He laid a wreath in memory of Palestinians killed and delivered remarks praising the camp as an “icon of struggle” and vowing that the Palestinian Authority would rebuild it.

On 9 July, Israel's Security Cabinet voted to act to -- quote "prevent the collapse of the Palestinian Authority," end of quote -- noting that the Prime Minister and Defence Minister would present the Cabinet with -- "steps to stabilize the civil situation in the Palestinian sector."

Separately, Israeli authorities took some steps in recent weeks with a view to relieving pressure on the Palestinian Authority fiscal situation, including reducing the handling fee for fuel Israel transfers to the Palestinian Authority and expanding electronic payments to Palestinians working in Israel.

On 17 July, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke by phone with U.S. President Biden, and, between 18 and 21 July, Israeli President Herzog conducted an official visit to the United States. According to official readouts, the leaders discussed, inter alia, steps to restore calm in the West Bank, including through reconvening in the Aqaba-Sharm el Sheikh format, in addition to regional developments and proposed changes to the judiciary in Israel.

On 24 July, following months-long protests, the Israeli Knesset passed a law barring Israeli courts from reviewing the "reasonableness" of Government actions and appointments. The so-called "reasonableness standard" had been used by courts in the past to block or limit certain Government actions, including those related to policies in the occupied Palestinian territory.

As violence in the West Bank has surged, Israeli steps to expand settlements continued.

Israeli authorities demolished, seized or forced owners to demolish 44 Palestinian-owned structures in Area C and 12 in East Jerusalem, displacing 70 Palestinians, including 38 children. The demolitions were carried out due to the lack of Israeli-issued building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain.

On 11 July, Israeli Security Forces evicted a Palestinian family from their home in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City and handed the property over to a settler organization, after a decades-long legal battle ended several months ago with the Supreme Court rejecting the family's last appeal. Close to 1,000 Palestinians, including 424 children, face possible eviction in East Jerusalem.

On 10 July, 36 Palestinians, including 20 children, left their community of al-Baqaa, near Jerusalem, following the establishment of a settlement outpost in their community on 21 June and subsequent settler attacks.

Turning to the region, on the Golan, the ceasefire between Israel and Syria has been generally maintained despite continued violations of the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement of Forces by both parties. On 19 July, UNDOF observed the Israel Defense Forces fire at least 350 machine gun rounds, and on 24 July, five projectiles into the area of separation. UNDOF has continued to notice the presence of Syrian armed forces personnel also in the area of separation. UNDOF remains in contact with both sides to prevent any escalation of tensions.

As the Special Coordinator for Lebanon and USG Lacroix highlighted in their briefings to the Council on 20 July, tension along the Blue Line continued to be witnessed, in particular in the Shab'a Farms and Northern Ghajar related to the occupation of Northern Ghajar by Israel, and the construction works by the Israel Defense Forces in sensitive areas as well as the placement of a tent south of the Blue Line, claimed by Hezbollah. The United Nations reiterates the importance of all concerned parties exercising restraint and utilizing the liaison mechanisms of UNIFIL to deescalate tensions.

I am deeply alarmed by the scale of violence and scope of destruction we have witnessed in recent weeks, particularly during the 3-4 July ISF operation and ensuing armed exchanges in Jenin, as well as the attacks this past month that have targeted Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

I reiterate the call on all parties to take concrete steps to deescalate tensions on the ground and ensure that all civilians are protected.

The UN remains engaged in extensive contacts with all parties, including regionally, to help lower tensions and prevent a renewed outbreak of violence.

As the Special Coordinator has emphasized, such steps must be integrated into a broader effort by all parties to restore a political horizon and address the underlying drivers of the conflict. The United Nations remains committed to helping Palestinians and Israelis resolve the conflict and end the occupation with the aim of achieving a two-State solution, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements.

CEIRPP Statement

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In recent weeks, Israel's excessive use of force and deployment of heavy weaponry against densely populated civilian areas, has caused Palestinian casualties, including among children, and widespread destruction. The raid in the Jenin refugee camp on 19 June, the largest Israeli incursion in the West Bank in 20 years, triggered a cycle of violence resulting in more than 12 Palestinian and four Israeli fatalities and fuelled tensions in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Committee seconds the plea of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for Israel to align its policies and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with international human rights standards and humanitarian law. Such measures include safeguarding the right to life and fulfilling its obligations under international humanitarian law to maintain public order and safety.

Increasing violence by armed settlers, working in coordination with Israel's security forces, deserves the urgent attention of the Security Council. The settler's systematic attacks on Palestinian civilians and their raids on Palestinian villages, setting fire to dozens of homes and vehicles and agricultural fields, have intensified dramatically. From 20 June to 25 June, Israeli settlers targeted several Palestinian towns and villages in the occupied West Bank, causing extensive damage and terrorizing civilians. As stated by Special Coordinator Wennesland in the 27 June briefing, these attacks often happen with the protection or in the proximity of Israeli occupying forces. In May, the living structures of the Palestinian herding

community of Ein Samiya in the occupied West Bank were repeatedly demolished, community members were subjected to settler violence, and were eventually displaced.

Israel condemned such settler attacks, calling them “nationalist terrorism” by its own Head of Security Agency and Police Commissioner -- other senior Israeli figures called them “Pogroms”. But condemnation is not enough. Israel must immediately take decisive steps to halt these attacks, ensure accountability, and protect Palestinians according to its responsibility as the occupying Power.

We renew our appeal to the Security Council to ensure a mechanism to protect the Palestinian people from the occupying forces' incursions and provocative actions.

Such attacks are the direct result of Israel’s expanding settlement policy, in utter disregard for international law and resolutions of this Security Council, including resolution 2334 (2016), which repeatedly declared all settlements in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, to be illegal and demanded an immediate halt and reversal of related policies and practices, as they are tantamount to de facto annexation. So far this year, Israel has advanced plans for over 10,000 housing units in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with the clear intent to further colonize and fragment the Palestinian territory and illegally cement its own control.

It is of utmost concern that Israeli political actors are inflaming the situation rather than calling for calm. During the violence in Jenin, an Israeli cabinet member urged Israeli security forces to “blow up buildings and assassinate terrorists...dozens, hundreds or if needed, thousands” and called on settlers to “run to the hilltops” and establish “additional outposts.”

The Committee strongly condemns the inflammatory rhetoric and actions of Israeli authorities, which support illegal land confiscation and violate international law, and urges Israel to stop incitement and provocations against the Palestinian people and fully comply with its obligations as the occupying Power under international law.

The Committee decries the lack of accountability for illegal Israeli actions, including during the Israeli military aggression on Gaza in May 2023. We call for the immediate lifting of the blockade on this part of the Palestinian territory and respect for relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1860 (2009). The Committee reiterates that the indiscriminate launching of rockets towards Israeli population centres is prohibited by international humanitarian law.

People worldwide hope for their children to inherit good health and prosperity. The children of Palestine have, however, only inherited occupation. In his report of 5 June 2023 on Children and Armed Conflict, the Secretary-General reported more than 3,133 grave violations verified against Palestinian children, including the killing of 54 of them between January and December 2022 in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The Committee calls for a halt to Israel’s use of force against children and appeals to all stakeholders in this conflict, Israeli and Palestinian, to abide by their domestic and international legal obligations and protect children. It further calls on all UN human rights mechanisms, including the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict, to take action in

accordance with their mandates to ensure accountability for Israel's human rights violations in the OPT.

The Committee expresses appreciation in this regard for the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 in advocating for protection of Palestinian children and the civilian population as a whole, in accordance with international law.

Israel's occupation has now become doubly punitive towards Palestine refugees. As the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) struggles to sustain its lifesaving activities for Palestine refugees, the two-day Israeli military operation in June 2023 in the Jenin refugee camp – home to nearly 24,000 people – damaged at least 900 houses rendering many of them uninhabitable, interrupted essential services, left the crucial UNRWA's health centre unusable and at least 3,500 refugees displaced.

The Committee condemns Israel's actions against Palestine refugees and the destruction of UNRWA's lifesaving investments. We call on all donors and partners to make funds immediately available to UNRWA for the humanitarian response in the Jenin camp and to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for the Agency to enable it to faithfully uphold its mandate.

The Committee reiterates that a just and lasting peace will only be achieved with the end of Israel's occupation, the end of illegal settlements that further and entrench the occupation, and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and freedom, which they have been too long denied.
