



# General Assembly Security Council

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**General Assembly**  
**Tenth emergency special session**  
Agenda item 5

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

**Security Council**  
**Seventy-eighth year**

## **Identical letters dated 7 September 2023 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council**

Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people have continued unabated in the period since my last letter to you and in the absence of any serious form of censure or accountability by the international community, including the Security Council.

Its terrorist settlers continue violently attacking Palestinian civilians and property; its military continues violently raiding Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps, killing, injuring and detaining Palestinian civilians and causing wanton destruction to homes and infrastructure; its authorities continue to order the punitive demolition of Palestinian homes and the confiscation of land and property for its relentless settlement colonization campaign; and its officials continue to provoke and incite against the Palestinian people with inflammatory rhetoric, openly threatening, maligning and discriminating against them.

All of this is happening in a period that some believe is relatively "quiet", an abnormal, abominable situation that has been normalized, despite the grave breaches of international law, including war crimes and the crime against humanity of apartheid, being perpetrated every single day, in plain sight, by Israel, the occupying Power, and its occupying forces, including both its army and settler militias, against the Palestinian people. Only true accountability can bring an end to this illegal situation and revive the prospects for realizing justice and peace.

The continued failure to ensure accountability will only embolden those with racist, hateful, criminal agendas, such as the so-called Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, who is on record as stating, on 23 August: "My right, the right of my wife and my children to move around 'Judea and Samaria' is more important than freedom of movement for the Arabs." Such a statement comes amid a slew of other inflammatory remarks by Ben-Gvir, who continues to give voice to the supremacist, apartheid policies of Israel against the Palestinian people.



Those public remarks followed his vows in an Israeli government meeting to intensify punitive actions against the Palestinian people, including by imposing lockdowns of Palestinian villages; increasing checkpoints in the West Bank, which already number over 645, that restrict and control Palestinian movement; carrying out targeted assassinations of leaders of Palestinian movements; and imposing harsher conditions on Palestinians being held in Israeli prisons. His announcement of these plans followed an earlier decision, on 20 August, to allocate millions of dollars to bolster illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Jerusalem, and the presentation of plans, on 23 August, by the so-called head of the “West Bank Settlements Regional Council”, proposing to increase the number of settlers in the northern West Bank from about 170,000 currently to 1 million in 2050.

Such provocative statements and illegal plans expose the deeply entrenched colonial, apartheid mindset driving the policies and practices of the Israeli government in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in flagrant disrespect for international law and contempt for the international community.

Also, in the weeks since my previous letter, more Palestinian civilians, among them children, have been murdered by the Israeli occupying forces. The following are some of the recent victims of Israel’s blatant and long-standing disregard for Palestinian lives:

On 31 August, a Palestinian child, Khaled Samer al-Za’aneen, aged 14, was killed after he was shot by Israeli occupying forces near the area of Bab al-Amud in the Old City in occupied East Jerusalem. Sources said that the child was on the train before he was assaulted by extremist settlers, who later called the police, who came and opened fire at the unarmed child and left him on the ground to bleed to death. Later, Israeli occupying forces raided Khaled’s family home in Bayt Hanina, north of Jerusalem, ransacked it, harassed those who came to offer their condolences to his family and detained his grieving father, mother, sister and brother.

On 5 September 2023, Israeli occupying forces again attacked Nur Shams camp near Tulkarm, killing a Palestinian youth, Ayed Samih Khaled Abu Harb, aged 21. Witnesses said the youth was standing by the front door of his home when he was shot in the head by Israeli soldiers. Another man who was injured by Israeli fire was driving his taxi to work. Israeli occupying forces also caused destruction in the camp, using armoured tractors, bulldozing the road leading to the camp and destroying a number of homes and shops, as well as infrastructure.

Also on 5 September, a report by an Israeli human rights organization, B’Tselem, revealed that, during a 10 July raid on a Palestinian home in Al-Khalil (Hebron), five women of the family were forced by Israeli soldiers to strip naked during a four-hour search of the home. According to the report, 25–30 Israeli soldiers, some of them wearing masks, entered three adjoining apartments, home of the extended Ajlouni family. During the search, two female soldiers with rifles and an attack dog reportedly forced the five women, aged between 24 and 53, to undress, threatening to unleash the dog if they did not comply. This is yet another incident exposing the constant humiliation, harassment and intimidation inflicted by this illegal, racist occupation on the Palestinian people every single day, traumatizing and terrorizing the population.

The past weeks have also witnessed ongoing settler attacks, with extremist settlers working in tandem with the extremists in the Israeli government to implement their illegal colonial annexation agenda. Settlers have continued to rabidly attack Palestinian civilians, including school children, and attack their land, properties, homes and holy sites. This includes recurrent incursions at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif, an assault on Qasrah village, attacks on shepherds in Mughayyir village,

the burning of two tents and the theft of sheep in Dayr Dibwan village, the uprooting of dozens of olive trees in the town of Ni‘lin and the burning of olive trees in the Tall al-Rumaydah area of Al-Khalil. All such settler crimes are being perpetrated in full sight of and with the cooperation and support of the Israeli army and government without a shred of accountability.

The recent period has also witnessed the worsening situation of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel as the extremist government intensifies ill-treatment and punitive measures against them. Palestinian prisoners and administrative detainees, held without charge or trial, continue to be subjected to violent raids and searches, vandalism and destruction of personal belongings and abusive treatment, including during their transfer from prison to prison. Moreover, Israel has begun implementing Ben-Gvir’s plan to reduce family visits to Palestinian prisoners to once every two months instead of once a month, violating international legal standards and clearly aimed at infringing on the rights and dignity of prisoners and their families. In this regard, it has been announced that Palestinian prisoners will carry out an open-ended hunger strike starting on 14 September to demand their rights and an end to such illegal policies and maltreatment by the occupying Power.

In view of the critical and ever-worsening situation of the Palestinian people under Israel’s colonial occupation and apartheid regime, we are compelled to reiterate our standing calls for international protection for the Palestinian people and for urgent action by the international community to promote accountability, the only viable remedy for this illegal, abhorrent situation. It is time to bring a halt to the nefarious plans of the extremist, supremacist government in Israel, which is threatening another Nakba against the Palestinian people, and to live up to the obligations and responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and all other relevant provisions of international law to ensure peace and security and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the rights to freedom and return.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 800 letters regarding the ongoing historic injustice against the Palestinian people and the crimes being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 ([A/55/432-S/2000/921](#)) to 17 August 2023 ([A/ES-10/948–S/2023/608](#)), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

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

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