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

Security Council
Eightieth year

Identical letters dated 6 March 2025 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, the occupying Power, continues to commit war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Even with a ceasefire agreement for Gaza, conditions remain dire, perpetuating the hardships and suffering of the Palestinian people in this holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

Israel persists with its violations of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2735 \(2024\)](#), the foundation of the ceasefire agreement concluded under the auspices of Egypt, Qatar and the United States and welcomed globally as a means to bring an end to 15 months of unprecedented horrors and a permanent end to hostilities, and open a political horizon based on the two-State solution.

In a span of 42 days since the ceasefire came into effect, at least 962 Israeli violations of the ceasefire agreement were documented, although certainly there have been more. This includes the killing of 116 Palestinian civilians, including children, and wounding of 490 people, and the refusal to withdraw Israeli occupying forces as indicated in the agreement, including from the Philadelphi Corridor.

The Israeli Prime Minister's recent directive to halt "the entry of all goods and supplies into the Gaza Strip" as a negotiating tool is not only bad faith, but amounts to a war crime and a crime against humanity as Israel continues to wield starvation as a weapon of war, and reflects the depths of Israel's disrespect of international law and international institutions, as well as its dehumanization of the Palestinian people.

According to Amnesty International: "Israel's decision to block humanitarian aid to Gaza is a war crime and amounts to collective punishment of the civilian population. It's a continuation of the policy to impose on Palestinians conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction. This is genocide".

The Deputy Speaker of Israel's parliament has openly called for destroying food aid delivered to the starved population in Gaza, posting on social media: "Have the



gates of hell opened? Bomb from the air today the food stocks that have already been brought into Gaza!” Such flagrant incitement is not only commonplace among far-right, extremist Israeli politicians, but is being mainstreamed in Israeli society, amplifying the dangers of the growing genocidal tendencies in Israel.

In a statement issued today, 29 independent human rights experts stressed: “As the occupying Power, Israel is always obliged to ensure sufficient food, medical supplies and other relief services. By deliberately cutting vital supplies, including those relating to sexual and reproductive health, and assistive devices for persons with disabilities, Israel is once again weaponising aid. These are serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws, and war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute”.

Yet Israel continues its systematic violations of the law and derision of the international calls for compliance. This is surely a by-product of the impunity accorded to Israel for far too long. Fearing no consequences, Israel makes such brazen decisions even in the midst of International Court of Justice hearings under the Genocide Convention, blatantly flouting the Court’s binding provisional measures orders, and in the midst of advisory proceedings on the legal obligations of Israel in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations, other international organizations and third States in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population.

Israel does so knowing full well that its siege on humanitarian aid and the collapse of the ceasefire will gravely compound the already catastrophic situation in Gaza, where it has forcibly displaced at least 90 per cent of the population, depriving them of their homes, food and other life essentials. This includes access to clean water and sanitation and to medical care, endangering lives by the rapid spread of diseases, which has been hastened by Israel’s starvation of the population and destruction of sewage facilities and desalination plants and targeting of hospitals and healthcare workers.

In this regard, in addition to widespread malnutrition and more babies dying of hypothermia, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has reported a sharp increase in hepatitis A cases, along with hundreds of thousands of cases of diarrhoea and other gastrointestinal illnesses, respiratory illnesses, the spread of lice and scabies and the re-emergence of polio. As reported in the medical journal *The Lancet*, mortality rates have dramatically risen as a result of Israel’s genocidal onslaught, with life expectancy in Gaza now almost halved to 40.6 years, the lowest in the world.

This deplorable situation further underscores the urgency of action, including as High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure accountability with concrete measures, including sanctions and an arms embargo, to confront Israel’s defiance. Clearly, the longer it evades responsibility for its crimes, the more criminal Israel is becoming and must be stopped.

The international community, including the Security Council, must demand that Israel respect the ceasefire agreement and abide by its international legal obligations, including to ensure the full, rapid, safe and unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance to reach the Palestinian civilian population, in line with international humanitarian and human rights law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions [2712 \(2023\)](#), [2720 \(2023\)](#) and [2735 \(2024\)](#). We reiterate in this regard our appeal for all efforts by the mediators and by the Security Council to ensure the implementation of the ceasefire in all its phases, as stipulated by resolution [2735 \(2024\)](#).

Moreover, the international community must be firm in its unequivocal demand for a halt to all attempts to forcibly displace the Palestinian people from their homeland. Swift action is needed to protect the Palestinian people in the face of Israel's illegal policies and measures aimed at the ethnic cleansing of both Gaza and the West Bank. Displaced Palestinian families must be allowed to return to their homes in all parts of Gaza and in the northern West Bank, where Israel has duplicated its destructive actions in Gaza, forcibly displacing over 40,000 Palestinians, particularly in the refugee camps of Jenin and Tulkarem.

Also in their statement today, the 29 independent human rights experts warned: "Creating unliveable conditions for the Palestinians under Israeli occupation appears to be Israel's determination across the entire occupied Palestinian territory, from the decimated Gaza strip to the West Bank. The annexation of territory by force is advancing at full speed in the West Bank, where refugee camps and cities are being bombed, depopulated and looted, and other areas are attacked by armed settlers with complicity of Israeli forces".

Israel continues the ruthless military aggression it launched in the West Bank just two days after the ceasefire began, alongside incessant violence and terror by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians. Israeli tanks raided the area for the first time in over two decades and the Israeli Prime Minister recently accompanied soldiers in the seizure of a home in the Tulkarem refugee camp. Israeli occupying forces have killed more than 50 Palestinians, including children, and caused widespread destruction of property, blowing up homes, ripping up roads and destroying electricity and water networks, again reminiscent of Israel's bombardment of neighbourhoods in Gaza.

As in Gaza, Israel's violent and illegal actions have inflicted dire humanitarian conditions in the West Bank, with many communities completely besieged and cut off from essential services and repeated attacks on hospitals and ambulances. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, "Many people have fled their homes to take shelter, including in crowded mosques and schools. With many homes damaged or destroyed, people are struggling to access basic needs such as clean water, food, medical care, and shelter. ... Displaced civilians are also struggling to find information about family members who have gone missing or who might have been detained".

The world cannot remain silent in the face of Israel's continuing massive forced displacement of the Indigenous Palestinian population across the Occupied Palestinian Territory in this ongoing Nakba against our people. Current estimates are that Israeli occupying forces have displaced 85 per cent of residents of the Tulkarem refugee camp alone, and it is clear that the occupying Power intends to carry on with this pattern of ethnic cleansing. Moreover, illegal actions aimed at depriving our refugees of the humanitarian assistance of UNRWA are integral to this criminal objective.

This is reflected in constant incitement and vows by Israeli officials, including the so-called Defence Minister who on 23 February boasted: "Forty thousand Palestinians evicted, so far, the Jenin, Tulkarm and Nur Shams refugee camps, now unpopulated. UNRWA activities in the camps was ceased. I ordered the Israel Defense Forces to remain in the cleansed camps for the next year, and prevent inhabitants from returning".

At the same time, the occupying Power persists with its criminal colonial settlement campaign in the West Bank. This includes the promotion of an Israeli bill proposing the establishment of "metropolitan Jerusalem" obviously aimed at the annexation of settlements surrounding occupied East Jerusalem with the "application of the law, jurisdiction and administration" of Israel to the so-called "Jerusalem

Metropolitan Area”. In this regard, the bill’s main proponent, the member of the Knesset Dan Illouz, has exposed the annexationist aim of the bill, blatantly stating: “The time has come to enact sovereignty over the entire West Bank.”

This would constitute yet another war crime by Israel, yet is being flagrantly boasted about and pursued by Israeli officials. As warned by the Israeli non-governmental organization Ir Amim: “The bill seeks to promote an illegal annexation under international law. ... Annexing West Bank settlements under the bill will divide the West Bank, sever the current critical territorial continuity between Bethlehem-Hebron and the Ramallah-Nablus areas, and further isolate East Jerusalem and its residents from the Palestinian space”. It also “seeks to weaken and further displace Jerusalem’s Palestinian population by forcing an artificial Jewish demographic majority at the cost of the organic fabric of the city and the rights of all its people”.

All of the above illegal and violent actions are clearly part and parcel of Israel’s criminal plans to forcibly transfer Palestinian civilians and annex Palestinian land in the West Bank. They make a mockery of the ceasefire agreement and moreover of the Security Council, its authority under the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and must be stopped. As Israel has openly declared its intention to carry on with these crimes, it is more urgent than ever for the international community to act now with enforcement measures and accountability to compel Israel’s compliance with the rule of law that it is trampling.

Here it must be recalled, as concluded by the International Court of Justice in its 19 July 2024 advisory opinion and reaffirmed by the General Assembly, that this occupation is illegal in its entirety, that Israel is not the sovereign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and that there is no justification whatsoever for such unlawful actions. Israel’s empty pretexts for such crimes, including its false narrative of terrorism, and its racist, dehumanizing rhetoric against the Palestinian people, must be firmly rejected. Israel has no right whatsoever to be present in any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and no right whatsoever to claim to be acting there in self-defence.

The Palestinian leadership thus reiterates its calls on all States and international organizations to act forthwith to bring an end to this illegal occupation and apartheid regime in all its manifestations and to support the Palestinian people to finally realize their inalienable right to self-determination.

As the occupying Power continues to threaten the lives and existence of our people, of immediate urgency is action, including by the Security Council, to ensure that the ceasefire agreement is sustained, including the provision of unimpeded humanitarian assistance at the scale needed, and that the agreement is implemented in full, including to allow for the return of our people to all parts of Gaza and for our recovery and reconstruction efforts to immediately get under way. All efforts must be exerted to prevent a catastrophic resumption of Israel’s war on Gaza and to extend the ceasefire to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

It is high time to stop the bloodletting and destruction and to heed the rising calls for a just peace – by the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the European Union and the vast of majority of States and peoples around the world. It is high time for tangible efforts to realize a just and lasting solution in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution [ES-10/24](#) and its call for an international conference to peacefully and justly resolve the question of Palestine and achieve the two-State solution.

It is high time to prioritize human life and to prioritize peace and security. No effort should be spared to this end.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 858 letters on the ongoing crisis 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 19 February 2025 (A/ES-10/1023-S/2025/106), 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 against our people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. This illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime must end now.

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

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