



Security Council

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Letter dated 29 October 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to kindly request, with reference to the dramatic crisis faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the latest act of the occupying Power, following the adoption of a “legislation” aimed at stripping UNRWA of the immunities, protections and means essential for it to safely operate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that you bring to the attention of the Security Council members, for information, that I have requested, on behalf of the Arab Group, the urgent convening of the General Assembly to address this critical development (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sidi **Mohamed Laghdaf**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the Chair of the Arab Group, I have the honour to write in follow-up to the letter sent on 25 October 2024, conveying the request of the Arab Group for the urgent convening of the General Assembly to address the dramatic crisis faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In this regard, I regret to inform you that yesterday Israel, the occupying Power, proceeded with the adoption of “legislation” in effect stripping UNRWA of the immunities, protections and means essential for it to safely operate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

As such, as indicated in the letter sent to you on 28 October 2024 by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, “the Agency is under such physical, political and operational attack – unprecedented in United Nations history – that implementation of its mandate may become impossible without decisive intervention by the General Assembly”.

The occupying Power’s actions constitute grave violations of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and other rules of international law, including humanitarian law, and of countless General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Such illegal actions will further endanger the safety of UNRWA staff and the security of its installations and profoundly deepen the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and suffering of the Palestinian people and must be halted.

As the mandating body, the General Assembly must act immediately to safeguard the UNRWA mandate from Israel’s unlawful attempts to terminate it; reaffirm its support for UNRWA and the rights of the Palestine refugees it is mandated to assist and protect; and extend the necessary political and financial support to ensure the continuity of UNRWA operations in all five fields under its mandate, pending a just solution to the Palestine question in all its aspects in accordance international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

We therefore respectfully reiterate our request to you to urgently convene the General Assembly so as to address this grave crisis confronting UNRWA and the United Nations as a whole.

(Signed) Sidi **Mohamed Laghdaf**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mauritania