

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
16 May 2019

Original: English

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-fourth year

**Identical letters dated 5 May 2019 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**

It is with urgency and distress that I write to you today to appeal for immediate action by the international community to bring a halt to the brutality and criminality that continues to be perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people.

The scenes are all too painfully familiar. Once again, we are witness to the savagery of Israeli military aggression against the defenceless and besieged Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. Once again, Israeli war planes and tanks are bombing civilian areas, deliberately and indiscriminately, causing death and injury to innocent children, women and men, causing damage and destruction to civilian property and terrorizing the entire population.

Once again, on the eve of Ramadan, our people are denied the tranquillity of peace and blessings of this holy month, instead forced to endure more suffering and trauma as the occupying Power insists on pursuit of its incessant cycles of war. Once again, families mourn the loss of loved ones to this criminal occupation.

As at the writing of this letter, it has been confirmed that 23 Palestinians, including children, women, among them pregnant women, and men, have been killed since the aggression began on Friday, 3 May 2019. More than 200 other civilians have been injured by the Israeli occupying forces.

Many remain critically wounded as a result of the live ammunition fired at civilian protesters, medics and journalists in Friday's Great March of Return protest and the airstrikes and tank shelling on, inter alia, Al-Bureij refugee camp, Al-Maghazi refugee camp, Beit Lahiya and Rimal and Shujae'ya neighbourhoods of Gaza City. Hundreds of Israeli airstrikes and tank bombardments on these densely populated civilian areas have targeted homes, large residential buildings, schools and ambulances, causing death, injury, destruction, widespread fear and panic among the besieged and long-suffering population.



The international community cannot remain silent while such crimes continue to be perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people under its occupation and siege. The obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and the obligation to ensure the protection of the occupied population, must be upheld and respected without exception.

The targeting of civilians and civilian properties, the killing and injury of civilians and the massive collective punishment of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza clearly constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, war crimes for which Israeli government and military officials and personnel must be held fully accountable.

We call on the international community and, in particular, the Security Council, to act immediately towards bringing a halt to the Israeli aggression against Gaza in all its forms, whether military assaults or the 12-year punitive, barbaric and illegal blockade imposed by the occupying Power. We recognize the efforts of Egypt and the United Nations, through the work of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nikolay Mladenov, to de-escalate the situation and ensure compliance with relevant ceasefire agreements. This, however, does not absolve the Council from acting to uphold its duty under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Security Council must act to prevent a further escalation, to ensure international protection to the Palestinian people under this illegal Israeli occupation and to hold Israel accountable for these crimes and all crimes that it continues to commit in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Accountability is the key to ending such shameless and reckless impunity. We thus also call once again on the International Criminal Court to proceed without delay with a formal investigation of these crimes, as long sought by the Palestinian leadership. It is high time for the international community to take serious, concrete and collective measures to end all forms of Israeli aggressions against the Palestinian people. Military assaults against civilians, blockade, colonization, displacement and dispossession, imprisonment and the constant dehumanization of our people, are all illegal, inhumane and must be brought to an end.

This requires immediate action in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions and tangible support to the Palestinian people in their long struggle to fulfil their national aspirations and inalienable human rights, including to self-determination and independence. We urge you to act now to save innocent civilian lives, to salvage the prospects for peace and to restore faith in the rules-based order and international system, in particular the Security Council.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 664 letters regarding 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 1 April 2019 ([A/ES-10/816-S/2019/284](#)), 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, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be 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**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the
State of Palestine to the United Nations