



# General Assembly Security Council

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

Security Council  
Seventy-seventh year

## **Identical letters dated 8 August 2022 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**

For a fourth consecutive day, Israel's military aggression against the besieged Gaza Strip is killing more civilians and causing wanton destruction, in flagrant violation of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

As I write to you, 44 Palestinians, including 15 children, have been killed and nearly 400 wounded as hundreds of Israeli warplanes have encircled and bombarded Gaza, targeting, killing and maiming innocent Palestinian civilians – children, women and men. Thousands of civilians have also been displaced, fearful of being buried under rubble in the relentless Israeli air strikes on residential buildings and neighbourhoods, traumatizing the civilian population yet again in the fifth Israeli aggression on Gaza in less than 15 years.

Israel's indiscriminate bombardment of the Jabalia refugee camp has massacred nine people, including four children. Horrific footage showed the moment when children were pulled from beneath the rubble as they lay motionless, covered in blood and dust. In another attack, Israeli warplanes bombed cars in Beit Hanoun, killing a 62-year-old woman attending her son's wedding and a 50-year-old man on his way to raise the call to prayer at a local mosque.

And yesterday, another night of endless terror wreaked havoc on Gaza as Israeli warplanes indiscriminately bombarded multiple refugee camps, killing 12 Palestinians and critically injuring dozens more. Israel's latest bombardment of densely populated refugee camps is not new, as it repeatedly wiped out refugee camps in previous aggressions on Gaza, destroying tens of thousands of homes and displacing hundreds of thousands in one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with an area of just 365 square kilometres. Israel must be held accountable for its latest bombardment of refugee camps in Gaza, given that it has yet to bear the full consequences of accountability for its well-documented war crimes and wanton destruction in Al-Bureij, Al-Shati, Jabalia, Khan Younis, Khuza'a, Rafah, Shujaiya and elsewhere in besieged Gaza.



Over the past 20 years, Israel has killed more than 10,000 Palestinians, including over 2,000 children. Israel's routine killing of Palestinian children should remind the international community, particularly the Security Council, that children are protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention and other provisions of international law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Israel is a signatory. As Palestinian children continue to be targeted and killed during repeated Israeli aggressions, we must ask once again: when will Palestinian children be entitled to such universal rights and the protections of international law?

Decades of inaction have only emboldened Israel's impunity and green-lighted this latest aggression; it counts on the Security Council to remain silent, all the while entrenching its colonial occupation and apartheid regime. But the world cannot be blind to the Palestinian people's suffering, as such gross violations of international law have no place during the twenty-first century and were supposed to have long ago been banished by humanity.

In light of continuing Israeli human rights violations and war crimes and of the distortions that continue to be peddled under the pretext of "self-defence", the State of Palestine stresses the following:

- The repeated bombings against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip are a clear indication of the failure of the Israeli policies of inhumane blockade and wars of aggression that only fuel violence and lead to further casualties, devastation and suffering for civilians.
- There is no right to massacre, and there is no justification for the targeting of civilians or indiscriminate attacks upon them. The Israeli occupying Power has used and abused the same excuses to bomb Gaza repeatedly over the years, absolutely trampling the law, with no end in sight and with no safe haven for the Palestinian people.
- This situation only further highlights the need for immediate international protection of the Palestinian people, as Israel's disregard for civilian life, including that of children, is again on full display.
- The Secretary-General warned in his latest report on children and armed conflict that a repeat of the attacks of May 2021 by Israel against Palestinian children would warrant a listing of Israel. We believe that this listing is long overdue and that the killing of children during this latest aggressive war only confirms the need for such listing.
- This latest aggression demonstrates once again the urgent need for a political horizon that leads to ending the Israeli occupation in all its manifestations and achieving just, lasting and comprehensive peace in accordance with the internationally recognized terms of reference and international law. The alternative is more bloodshed, suffering and oppression of an entire nation.

In the past 15 years, Israel has launched five military aggressions against Gaza as more than 2 million Palestinians have been inhumanely besieged, living under the threat of violence every minute of the day, not knowing when or where the next Israeli air strike will be. This is a grave injustice that cannot be ignored, as the 15-year blockade has turned Gaza into the world's largest open-air prison, trapping our people, who have nowhere to flee from the occupation's onslaught. In his statement during last year's special session of the Human Rights Council, the former Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, stated the following on the cruel and dark reality in Gaza:

Gaza has been often called the world's largest open-air prison, with the occupying power having complete authority to determine who and what enters

and leaves the Strip. There is no other comparable situation in the modern world where an alien power has enclosed and penned off an entire community of people. When intensive violence revisits the Palestinians in Gaza, as it regularly does, there is no escape. That this medieval restriction on basic freedoms has gone on for 14 years, and counting, is a harrowing stain on our humanity.

We reiterate our continuous calls upon the Security Council to uphold its duty under the Charter of the United Nations and to act with urgency and responsibility to stop the Israeli onslaught. We call upon the Council yet again – joined by countries and people all over the world, as evidenced in the many statements and appeals issued – to rise to the responsibilities to stop Israel’s violations and to save innocent lives.

The occupying Power has also intensified its colonial policies in Jerusalem in an attempt to entrench and consolidate the apartheid regime in Palestine. In this regard, we must draw attention to the continuing incitement and inflammatory rhetoric by Israeli politicians, extremist religious leaders and far right settler groups. Mobs of settler extremists, protected and abetted by Israeli soldiers, are storming the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and performing religious rituals at the holy site, in violation of the historic and legal status quo, further inflaming religious tensions and threatening to ignite another cycle of violence.

Also in Jerusalem, a series of Israeli announcements and schemes is accelerating the expansion of illegal settlements in Occupied Palestine, particularly in and around Jerusalem. The Israeli government announced plans to build 700 settler units in East Jerusalem and more than 1,400 settler units in the so-called “Har Homa” and “Givat Hamatos” settlements, to which thousands more Israeli settlers will be illegally transferred as Israel accelerates its attempts to completely disconnect Jerusalem from Bethlehem in order to undermine the contiguity of Palestinian land and to severely diminish the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem. As the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has noted: “Israeli measures have increasingly cut off East Jerusalem, once the focus of political, commercial, religious and cultural life for the entire Palestinian population of the occupied Palestinian territory, from the rest of the West Bank and from the Gaza Strip”.

As Israel intensifies its colonial policies through repeated attacks on holy sites and constant expansion of illegal settlements, we recall once again that Israel is the occupying Power and has no sovereignty rights whatsoever in occupied East Jerusalem, including in the Old City and at its holy sites, regardless of any unilateral claims, declarations, so-called “Basic Law” or otherwise. Moreover, we urge the international community, particularly the Security Council, to uphold the rule of law and implement United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), which, inter alia, condemned “all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem ...”, called for cessation of all such illegal policies and measures and underlined that the Security Council “will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem”.

Too many times in the past, the Security Council has been reluctant to address repeated Israeli military aggressions against the Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza. It is incumbent on the international community, particularly the Security Council and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to uphold their respective duties and to use all means and measures afforded by international law to finally hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable under the full extent of the law, including under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, towards holding the perpetrators of such war crimes, who openly boast and brag about their assaults on the Palestinian people, responsible and deterring further crimes against our people.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 761 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 5 August 2022 (A/ES-10/908-S/2022/602), 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) Riyadh **Mansour**  
Minister  
Permanent Observer

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