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**Human rights situation in Palestine and other
occupied Arab territories**

Written statement* submitted by International Foundation Witnesses Ashoora, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 August 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Investigation of the Situation after the Attack of the Occupying Power on Jenin Camp

Introduction

The Occupation Power (OP) attacked the northern West Bank town of Jenin and the refugee camp there, targeting defenseless Palestinian civilians, especially women and children, and again committing brutal acts of apartheid and terrorism. This action was active ethnic cleansing and has resulted in a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people.

We are deeply concerned about the tragic consequences of the invasion of the Jenin camp by the OP, which resulted in heavy casualties in the recent military operation, killing at least ten Palestinians and injuring dozens more. We, therefore, condemn the recent attacks by the occupation forces on the Jenin refugee camp, as they worsen the humanitarian situation and contribute to the longest-suffering in modern history by depriving Palestinians of any human right they had in the struggle for their existence. Such gross violation of international humanitarian law and international law is a human rights challenge and must be taken up by the international community and seriously investigated and prosecuted by this Council. The OP is fully responsible for the consequences of the continuation of these crimes and the repeated attacks on the Palestinian people.

The disproportionate use of force by the OP's army in Jenin is of concern. We call on international organizations to compel the occupying power to respect and abide by international norms and standards of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the protection of and respect for the right to life. The investigation of cases in which the Occupying Power has violated the principles and foundations of international law, international humanitarian law, and the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory makes it clear that the OP continues to ignore the provisions of international law and international legitimacy.

Some examples of the violation of the humanitarian rights of the Palestinian people during the attack of the occupying power on the Jenin camp are given:

This year is on track to be the deadliest year in the occupied West Bank since the UN began recording casualties in 2005. Since Netanyahu returned to power, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has deteriorated rapidly. At least 152 Palestinians, including 28 children, have been martyred in the West Bank, matching last year's record. The majority of those martyrs were shot by OP forces with live ammunition. [1] On 3 and 4 July in the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, OP security forces carried out an operation it is done by multiple drone strikes and over 1,000 ground troops. Twelve Palestinians, including four children, were martyred and over 140 were injured. the most in a single operation in the West Bank since the United Nations began tracking casualties in 2005. [2]

In one of OP's biggest military operations in the occupied West Bank in years, thousands of Palestinians were forced to flee and infrastructure, houses, and apartment buildings were damaged.

According to reports, around 4,000 Palestinians fled the Jenin refugee camp overnight after deadly OP airstrikes. [3]

The enclosure of the camp, alongside the destruction of roads from the strikes, prevented access for medical teams and ambulances to reach those suffering from critical injuries. This is a breach of international humanitarian law as set out in Section III of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the 1907 Hague Regulations as well as in customary law rules. [4]

In this attack, the army reportedly targeted civilians, medics, and journalists, firing sniper shots just inches away from them. [5]

Recommendations:

- The contracting parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention to assume their responsibilities, ensure the observance of the Convention, and enforce it in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, including Al-Qods, by stopping OP crimes and violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- Urgent request regarding the OP's denial of access by medical and humanitarian personnel to people in need of urgent and critical care.
- Request the human rights council to conduct immediate and comprehensive investigations into OP violations and take effective measures to compel the OP, to comply with its obligations. The recent escalation should be a clear impetus for the Court to take immediate steps to prosecute violations of international humanitarian law.
- OP's failure to comply with the hundreds of resolutions from the UN, calling primarily for an end to the ongoing violations and occupation of the Palestinian territories, is a serious violation that endangers human lives and the fundamental integrity of the State. We maintain that this non-compliance with the longest-running case on the international agenda only damages the credibility of the UN as a functioning body.

[1] <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/palestine-jenin-operation-marks-violent-half-year-israels-government>

[2] <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15368.doc.htm>

[3] <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/israeli-air-strikes-and-ground-operations-jenin-may-constitute-war-crime-un>

[4] <https://www.gicj.org/positions-opinions/gicj-positions-and-opinions/3480-an-escalation-of-military-operation-in-the-jenin-refugee-camp,-whilst-we-are-yet-to-see-an-escalation-of-response>

[5] <https://www.gicj.org/positions-opinions/gicj-positions-and-opinions/3480-an-escalation-of-military-operation-in-the-jenin-refugee-camp,-whilst-we-are-yet-to-see-an-escalation-of-response>