



Security Council

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Implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the thirtieth quarterly report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), covering the period from 19 March to 10 June 2024.

II. Settlement activities

2. In its resolution 2334 (2016), the Security Council reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, had no legal validity and constituted a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. The Council reiterated its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in that regard. No such steps were taken during the reporting period, as settlement activities continued.

3. On 8 April, the Israeli planning authorities advanced a plan for 450 housing units in occupied East Jerusalem. In addition, on 16 April, the Ministry of Construction and Housing published a tender for nearly 1,050 housing units at the Lower Aqueduct site. Approximately half of the projected units are intended for construction across the Green Line in occupied East Jerusalem.

4. On 10 May, an Israeli military order was signed that would allow Israelis to enter areas in the occupied West Bank, including three previous settlements, Ganim, Kadim and Sa Nur, which were evacuated during the disengagement in 2005. On the same day, the military issued another order declaring the three areas as closed military zones, thereby prohibiting the entrance of Israelis and Palestinians. The first order followed the adoption on 23 March 2023 of an amendment to the 2005 Disengagement Law that repealed clauses in the legislation prohibiting Israelis from entering the areas where the settlements of Homesh, Ganim, Kadim and Sa Nur in the northern West Bank once stood. The Israeli military had issued an order on 18 May 2023 authorizing Israelis to enter the evacuated illegal settlement outpost of Homesh.

5. Demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures continued across the occupied West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, throughout the reporting period.



Israeli authorities, citing the lack of Israeli-issued building permits, which remain almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain, demolished, seized or forced people to demolish 190 structures. The demolition of those structures resulted in the displacement of 267 persons, including 138 children, and affected more than 1,255 other persons.

6. A total of 3 per cent of the structures were demolished or seized with no, or very short, notice based on military order 1797, which authorizes an expedited process for the demolition of unauthorized “new structures” in Area C and gives owners 96 hours to demonstrate possession of a valid building permit. Twenty-five of the structures were demolished by their owners after they received demolition orders in order to avoid heavy Israeli demolition fees. Of the structures that were demolished or seized, 14 had been funded by international donors.

7. On 9 May, 28 Palestinians were displaced in one incident in Duma village, when five Palestinian-owned homes and five livelihood structures were demolished. On the same day, five Palestinians were displaced, and one Palestinian girl was injured by shrapnel, when Israeli authorities detonated explosives in a house in Shu’fat refugee camp in East Jerusalem, citing punitive grounds.

8. On 26 May, the High Court of Justice of Israel upheld a previous court decision denying appeal from a magistrate court’s decision ordering the eviction of a Palestinian family of 15 members in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan. In total, 26 Palestinian-owned structures in occupied East Jerusalem were demolished by their owners to avoid heavy Israeli demolition fees after they received demolition orders.

III. Violence against civilians, including acts of terror

9. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council called for immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation and destruction, called for accountability in that regard and called for compliance with obligations under international law for the strengthening of ongoing efforts to combat terrorism, including through existing security coordination, and to clearly condemn all acts of terrorism.

10. The reporting period was marked by continued intense hostilities between Israel and Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza, alongside sustained violence in the occupied West Bank.

11. In Gaza, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health, from 19 March to 10 June at least 5,305 Palestinians were killed, including approximately 1,059 women and 1,517 children, and at least 10,778 Palestinians were injured. This brings the total Palestinian fatalities in Gaza, according to the Ministry, to at least 37,124 since 7 October 2023, the majority of them reportedly women and children.

12. According to Israeli sources, during the same period 57 Israelis were killed, all members of the security forces, and 24 Israelis, including 6 women and 2 children, were injured in attacks either in or originating from Gaza. Israeli sources report a total of over 1,500 Israelis and foreign nationals killed in this context, including at least 338 women and 38 children, and 690 members of the security forces since 7 October 2023.

13. Also according to Israeli sources, 120 hostages are still being held captive in Gaza by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups. According to the findings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict released on 4 March, based on the first-hand accounts of released hostages, the

mission team received clear and convincing information that sexual violence, including rape, sexualized torture, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment occurred against some women and children during their time in captivity and has reasonable grounds to believe that this violence may be ongoing.

14. Israeli military operations continued throughout the Gaza Strip. Larger-scale operations continued to move south, and were met with significant and sustained attacks against the Israel Defense Forces and indiscriminate launching of rockets towards Israel, including central Israel, by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups. Intense fighting between the Israel Defense Forces and Palestinian armed groups also continued in areas in the central and northern parts of Gaza.

15. In early May, operations of the Israel Defense Forces and hostilities intensified in southern Gaza. Amid the preparations by the Israel Defense Forces for operations in and around Rafah, on 5 May Hamas launched mortars and rockets at soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces on the Israeli side of the nearby Karam Abu Salim/Kerem Shalom crossing, killing 4 Israeli soldiers and wounding another 10. The Israel Defense Forces subsequently ordered humanitarian workers at Karam Abu Salim/Kerem Shalom and its environs to evacuate and closed the crossing for three days. Tank shelling and a series of air strikes by the Israel Defense Forces in Rafah killed at least 19 Palestinians on the same date, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health. On 6 May, the Israel Defense Forces began a military offensive in and around the city of Rafah. In a statement on 6 May, the Israel Defense Forces said that it would operate with “extreme force” against Hamas elements in eastern Rafah and ordered approximately 100,000 Palestinians to immediately evacuate. On the morning of 7 May, the Israel Defense Forces said that it had established “operational control of the Gazan side of the [Rafah] crossing”. The crossing with Egypt, located along the so-called “Philadelphi Corridor”, has been closed to the movement of goods, including fuel, and people since the announcement.

16. Amid repeated air strikes in the area, on 26 May an Israel Defense Forces air strike hit the Tal al-Sultan neighbourhood of Rafah, killing 45 Palestinians in the air strike and the subsequent fire in a tent camp for displaced persons. The Government of Israel said that the strike targeted two senior Hamas operatives with two small munitions and that shrapnel sparked a secondary explosion and the fire. On 28 May, an Israel Defense Forces drone strike hit a camp for displaced persons west of Rafah, reportedly killing 21 Palestinians, including 13 women, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. On 28 May, strikes in the Mawasi area, west of Rafah, killed 21 Palestinians and injured 10 according to the Ministry in Gaza; the Israel Defense Forces subsequently denied striking the camp.

17. In northern Gaza, on 11 May, Israeli authorities issued orders for civilians in the vicinity of Jabaliya to evacuate. The Israel Defense Forces subsequently conducted over 30 air strikes in eastern Jabaliya amid expanded ground operations. On the same day, Palestinian armed groups claimed to have undertaken 86 attacks against advancing Israeli forces. On 18 May, Israel issued a new evacuation order for all or parts of 10 neighbourhoods in northern Gaza, with over 100,000 Palestinians displaced in the area between 6 and 18 May.

18. In Nuseirat, during the night of 5 to 6 June, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health, 45 people were killed when an Israeli air strike hit a school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which had been converted into a shelter hosting 6,000 displaced people. According to the Israel Defense Forces, the strike targeted a container on the school’s premises being used by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) militants. On 8 June, Israeli security forces undertook an operation that rescued four hostages who were being held by militants in the central area of Nuseirat camp. The Israeli security forces

operation was accompanied by heavy aerial and naval bombardment by the Israel Defense Forces in multiple locations, resulting in severe damage, including to residential buildings and areas where no evacuation orders had been given. The Ministry of Health in Gaza reported over 270 Palestinian fatalities and more than 600 injuries, including many women and children, in the context of that operation. One personnel of the Israeli security forces was killed in the operation, according to Israeli authorities.

19. Attacks on Palestinians seeking aid and on humanitarian workers continued in Gaza. On 23 March, at least 19 Palestinians were reportedly killed by Israeli gunfire while waiting for food aid near Kuwaiti roundabout in Gaza City. Israel said that the incident would be investigated. Amid desperation, a breakdown of law and order has resulted in attacks on aid trucks by the local population, including armed actors. On 25 April, after the Israel Defense Forces announced that it would “provide security and logistics support” for the United States Joint Logistics over the Shore initiative (known as JLOTS), Palestinian armed groups in Gaza fired mortars at Israel Defense Forces troops in the area.

20. On 1 April, three World Central Kitchen-marked vehicles were hit by an Israel Defense Forces strike in Dayr al-Balah, killing seven humanitarian workers. The vehicles were clearly marked, and movement had been coordinated with the Israel Defense Forces in advance. The Prime Minister of Israel said that the Israel Defense Forces had conducted an “unintended strike” on “innocent people”. On 13 May, a United Nations staff member was killed, and another staff member seriously injured, when their United Nations-marked vehicle was hit by an Israel Defense Forces strike as they travelled to the European Hospital in Khan Yunis. Between 7 October 2023 and 10 June 2024, at least 272 aid workers were killed in Gaza, including 197 United Nations staff, and at least 186 United Nations buildings were damaged or destroyed. Three United Nations convoys were hit by live ammunition in the reporting period.

21. Repeated attacks in and around health-care facilities continued throughout the reporting period, resulting in the deaths of health-care workers, patients and internally displaced persons sheltering in those locations, and damage to or destruction of the facilities. From 18 March to 1 April, the Israel Defense Forces conducted a major operation in and around the Shifa’ Hospital in Gaza City, the largest hospital in the Gaza Strip, where some 30,000 people were sheltering. The Israel Defense Forces said that it had targeted senior members of Hamas and PIJ and that the attack had killed over 200 such members operating from inside the hospital. The Israel Defense Forces also said that it had detained over 500 members of Hamas or PIJ. The World Health Organization reported that 21 patients had died during the operation and that Israeli authorities had denied multiple requests for the agency to gain access to the hospital, with damage rendering the facility non-functional.

22. Following the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from the Nasser and Shifa’ medical complexes, in mid-April Palestinian sources reported discovering more than 300 bodies buried in mass graves in and around the complexes. The Israel Defense Forces said that bodies buried by Palestinians had been exhumed during its search for the remains of hostages and that “bodies were examined in a respectful manner and those not belonging to hostages were returned to their place”.

23. Meanwhile, violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continued at alarming levels. Israeli authorities continued to impose widespread movement restrictions and conducted extensive operations, arrests and detentions. High numbers of daily clashes and armed exchanges between Palestinians, including armed groups, and Israeli security forces and settlers were recorded, as were attacks perpetrated by Palestinians against Israelis and high levels of violence and intimidation by settlers.

24. During the reporting period, in the occupied West Bank, 95 Palestinians, including 2 women and 19 children, were killed by Israeli security forces during search-and-arrest operations, armed exchanges, air strikes, demonstrations and other incidents. One Palestinian was killed by Israeli settlers, and four were killed either by Israeli forces or by settlers. A total of 434 Palestinians were injured, including 55 by tear gas inhalation and 189 by live ammunition.

25. According to Israeli sources, 6 Israelis, including 1 child and 4 security forces personnel, were killed in the occupied West Bank and Israel, and another 60 were injured by Palestinians in shooting, stabbing and ramming attacks and in rock- and Molotov cocktail-throwing and other incidents.

26. In the occupied West Bank, most of the Palestinians were killed by Israeli security forces in the context of Israeli operations in Area A, including during subsequent exchanges with armed Palestinians. On 20 March, from 18 to 21 April and on 4 May, Israeli security forces carried out large-scale operations, including the use of drones, in and around Tulkarm, mostly in Nur Shams refugee camp, clashing with armed Palestinians, which resulted in 22 Palestinians, including 5 children, killed and 50 injured, as well as significant damage, and a reported 1 Israeli security personnel killed and another 10 wounded. Hamas claimed that four of the Palestinians killed on 4 May were members of its Qassam Brigades.

27. Israeli security operations were also carried out in Jenin city and refugee camp on 20 March and between 18 and 23 May, killing 16 Palestinians, including 4 children, and injuring 25. During the 20 March operation, Israeli security forces used a drone to strike a vehicle in the camp, killing four, all of whom were claimed by PIJ as members. Twelve Palestinians reportedly killed by Israeli security forces during the May operations in Jenin included a senior member of the Al-Quds Brigades of PIJ, an unarmed 51-year-old, a teacher shot near a school, and four children. Further Israeli security operations took place in Ramallah and Birah on 30 May, killing one Palestinian, injuring four and causing extensive damage to commercial sites; in Aqbat Jabr refugee camp in Jericho on 1 June, killing a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old, both Palestinian, and in Nablus on 3 June, killing three Palestinians and injuring nine, with ambulances reportedly being denied access.

28. During the reporting period, Israeli security forces conducted over 515 search-and-arrest operations, which resulted in the detention of more than 1,139 Palestinians, including at least 53 children.

29. In an attack on an UNRWA facility on 9 May, a group of Israelis set fire to the perimeter of the UNRWA compound in occupied East Jerusalem twice, causing extensive damage to the premises and prompting the site's closure for two days, as a crowd accompanied by armed men chanted "burn down the United Nations".

30. Violence against Israelis by Palestinians also continued in the occupied West Bank and Israel, resulting in three Israelis killed. On 22 March, a Palestinian opened fire at an Israeli bus near the settlement of Dolev in Ramallah Governorate. During the subsequent search operation, one Israeli security personnel was killed and eight were injured. On 31 March, a 19-year-old Palestinian from near Hebron stabbed and injured three Israelis, one of whom died on 4 April, in Israel, near Ashdod. Two Palestinian teenagers conducted a shooting and stabbing attack against Israel Defense Forces soldiers at Bayt Aynun junction near Hebron on 21 April. In each incident, the Palestinian perpetrators were killed by Israeli security forces. On 13 April, the body of a 14-year-old Israeli who had gone missing the day before was recovered near the Malachei HaShalom settlement outpost near Ramallah. The Israel Defense Forces said that he had been killed in an attack and that they had arrested a Palestinian suspect several days later. On 29 May, at a checkpoint near Nablus, a Palestinian man ran over two Israeli security forces personnel who subsequently died of their wounds.

in an alleged ramming attack; the man later surrendered to Palestinian security forces, saying that the incident had been an accident.

31. Settler-related violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, also continued at alarming levels. During the search for the 14-year-old Israeli boy from Malachei HaShalom settlement who had gone missing on 12 April and in subsequent days, settlers attacked the nearby villages, including Mughayyir, with gunfire and set homes and vehicles on fire, killing one Palestinian and wounding several others. By 16 April, settlers, in some cases in the presence of Israeli security personnel, had attacked at least 37 Palestinian villages, torching houses, cars and fields and shooting at residents, killing three more Palestinians, including a 17-year-old boy, and wounding 91 others. Eight Israelis were detained in connection with the attacks. On 20 April, approximately 50 settlers from the Eli settlement attacked Sawiyah village in Nablus Governorate, injuring two Palestinians. An ambulance driver evacuating the injured was shot and killed by either Israeli settlers or Israeli security forces.

IV. Incitement, provocations and inflammatory rhetoric

32. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council called upon both parties to act on the basis of international law, including international humanitarian law, and their previous agreements and obligations, to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, with the aim, inter alia, of de-escalating the situation on the ground, rebuilding trust and confidence, demonstrating through policies and actions a genuine commitment to the two-State solution and creating the conditions necessary for promoting peace. Incitement, inflammatory rhetoric and the glorification of the killing of civilians continued.

33. On 18 May, a senior Hamas official said, “We have an opportunity to change the world, and to make Palestine a blessing to mankind, by annihilating the Zionists and their sinful enterprise”. A spokesperson for Hamas’s Qassam Brigades called for an escalation “across all fronts” and praised the attack on Israel by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

34. An Israeli minister called for Rafah, Dayr al-Balah and Nuseirat to be “completely destroyed” and erasing “the lineage of Amalek” from Earth. An Israeli minister said in a video statement following calls to recognize a Palestinian State that “we do not have an interest to govern the people of Gaza, but also cannot live near a state of human animals”. On 22 May, a minister in the Government of Israel made a provocative visit to the holy sites in Jerusalem, during which he said that the site “belongs to the State of Israel”.

V. Affirmative steps to reverse negative trends

35. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council called for affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse the negative trends on the ground that were imperilling the two-State solution. Negative trends on the ground continued during the reporting period.

36. Amid hostilities in Gaza, the humanitarian situation deteriorated further from an already unprecedented scale of destruction and the loss of civilian life at catastrophic levels. The military ground operation into Rafah and renewed fighting in the north and central Gaza, alongside recurrent displacement, a breakdown of law and order, and continued severe restrictions on the entry of fuel and aid, have had a

disastrous impact on humanitarian operations. Commodities and services reaching people are grossly insufficient to sustain the population.

37. As at 15 May, nearly 1.7 million Palestinian people, or nearly 75 per cent of the population of the Gaza Strip, had been internally displaced across the Strip, many of them multiple times, with some 800,000 Palestinians displaced from Rafah. Evacuation orders issued by the Israel Defense Forces have directed people to sites that lack adequate shelter, latrines, water points and medical facilities.

38. Extensive destruction of residences and civilian infrastructure was reported across Gaza throughout the reporting period, including roads and other key infrastructure, such as for water and electricity. The decimation of the health sector and lack of basic services continue to drive the spread of communicable diseases, with only some seven field hospitals providing emergency care, of which four are fully functional. Another 17 hospitals are partially functioning. A total of 88 per cent of school buildings have been damaged. An interim damage assessment carried out by the World Bank and the United Nations with support from the European Union estimated the cost of direct damages to critical infrastructure in Gaza at around \$18.5 billion as at the end of January. As at 1 April, the United Nations estimates the amount of debris in Gaza at around 38 million tons, which will likely take years to remove and will require significant international assistance and cooperation. On 31 May 2024, a United Nations Satellite Centre comprehensive damage assessment found that more than 90 per cent of buildings within 1 km of the Gaza perimeter fence – the so-called “buffer zone” of Israel – had been damaged or destroyed.

39. On 18 March, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification partnership released findings indicating that 1.1 million people were projected to face catastrophic levels of hunger (phase 5) in northern Gaza governorates and that some 30 per cent of children under the age of 2 suffered from acute malnutrition. Persistent hostilities and Israeli military evacuation orders forced the closure of 25 of 35 medical points providing nutrition services in Rafah.

40. Palestinians, including children, in Gaza have faced catastrophic protection risks. The United Nations Children’s Fund estimated that at least 17,000 children in Gaza had been orphaned or separated from their families amid a spiralling risk of exploitation and abuse across all vulnerable groups. None of Gaza’s 625,000 students have had safe access to education since 7 October 2023, a setback that will require years to recover.

41. As the scale and depth of humanitarian needs continue to rise significantly, impediments to delivering assistance have persisted and access to humanitarian supplies has continued to be severely restricted since 7 October. During the reporting period, humanitarian operations faced attacks and severe access restrictions, including the closure of key crossings, denials and delays of planned missions, and the limited entry of critical items. In May, out of 349 coordinated humanitarian assistance missions within Gaza, 174 (50 per cent) were facilitated by Israeli authorities, 79 (22 per cent) were impeded, 38 (11 per cent) were denied and 58 (17 per cent) were cancelled. The capacity of humanitarian organizations to deliver vital assistance was also undermined by damage to roads and the presence of debris and unexploded ordnance, which could take up to 14 years to clear, according to Mine Action Service estimates.

42. Additional routes and points for the entry of goods were opened during the reporting period, including the Erez and Siafah/Ziqim crossings with Israel, the Jordanian corridor, and the maritime corridor through Cyprus using the pier off the coast of Gaza built by the United States of America. However, the closure of Rafah, intermittent closures of other points, congestion, damaged roads and insecurity, including attacks on aid convoys in Gaza and by Israeli civilians along routes in the

occupied West Bank, undermined efforts to significantly scale up the entry of aid through these additional points. On 26 May, following an agreement between Israel and Egypt, humanitarian assistance and fuel from Egypt began entering Gaza through the Karam Abu Salim/Kerem Shalom crossing. On 28 May, the United States-built pier off the Gaza coast was temporarily removed for repairs.

43. As at 13 June, Member States had disbursed about \$1.0 billion out of the \$3.4 billion (31 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory between January and December 2024.

44. Across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians, preventing access to services, including medical treatment, schools, and livelihoods, significantly affecting the economy, particularly around Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarm, and impeding access to occupied East Jerusalem. In another development, the Custodian of the State's Property in the Civil Administration of Israel declared approximately 8,000 dunums in the occupied West Bank as State land, the largest State land declaration in decades.

45. On 31 March, a new Palestinian Government headed by the Prime Minister, Mohammad Mustafa, was sworn in before the President, Mahmoud Abbas, including eight ministers from Gaza. In the Government's action plan, Mr. Mustafa outlined three priorities: alleviating the suffering of the population in Gaza, achieving financial stability and implementing an institutional reform and performance programme. On 23 April, following approval from the Palestinian Authority's Council of Ministers, Mr. Mustafa announced a package of reforms intended, inter alia, to address transparency and accountability, combat corruption, enhance the justice sector and the rule of law, promote democracy and human rights, reform the security sector, improve service delivery in health and education, reform public finance management and revive the economic sector.

46. The fiscal situation of the Palestinian Authority remains dire. In May, Israel suspended the transfer of all clearance revenues collected on behalf of the Palestinians in accordance with the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations. This development follows significant increases in the amount deducted by Israel, equivalent to what Israel calculated was paid by the Palestinians to Palestinian prisoners, their families or the families of those killed or injured in the context of alleged attacks against Israelis according to 2019 Israeli legislation, and for salaries and services in Gaza. Combined, these deductions had reached more than 70 per cent of total clearance revenues. Several Member States provided the Palestinian Authority with essential budget support, which when combined with domestic bank loans and dwindling domestic revenue allowed it to make partial salary payments from March to May. The World Bank estimated in May that the budget deficit could reach \$1.2 billion in the third quarter of 2024. Participants gathered at the International Partners Meeting on Palestine, chaired by Norway on 26 May, expressed widespread concern over the Palestinian Authority's fiscal situation and Israeli financial and other measures undermining the Palestinian Authority, as well as broad support for the Palestinian Authority's priorities and plans with respect to Gaza, the reform agenda, and the economy.

47. On 20 May, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court applied for arrest warrants for Yahya Sinwar (Head of Hamas in Gaza), Mohammed Diab Ibrahim al-Masri (Commander-in-Chief of the military wing of Hamas, known as the Qassam Brigades) and Ismail Haniyeh (Head of the Hamas Political Bureau), alleging that they bear criminal responsibility for "war crimes and crimes against humanity committed on the territory of Israel and the State of Palestine (in the Gaza Strip) from at least 7 October 2023". The Prosecutor also applied for arrest warrants for Benjamin

Netanyahu (Prime Minister of Israel) and Yoav Gallant (Minister of Defence of Israel), alleging that they bear criminal responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity “committed on the territory of the State of Palestine (in the Gaza Strip) from at least 8 October 2023”. On 24 May, the International Court of Justice reaffirmed the provisional measures indicated in its previous orders of 26 January and 28 March 2024, which, it stated, should be immediately and effectively implemented, and indicated further provisional measures, according to which Israel shall, in conformity with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and in view of the worsening conditions of life faced by civilians in the Rafah Governorate: (a) immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (b) maintain open the Rafah crossing for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance; and (c) take effective measures to ensure the unimpeded access to the Gaza Strip of any commission of inquiry, fact-finding mission or other investigative body mandated by competent organs of the United Nations to investigate allegations of genocide. The Court further decided that Israel shall submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to its order within one month.

48. UNRWA continues to face serious funding shortfalls, with core operations funded only until August 2024. According to UNRWA, it requires \$1.2 billion to provide for the most basic needs of the people in Gaza over the coming months, and currently only 17 per cent of those requirements are funded.

49. The attacks of 7 October, and subsequent hostilities between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups, including ongoing rocket launches and drone attacks, have had a significant social and economic impact in Israel. Some 120,000 Israelis, including 50,000 children, have been displaced from their homes in the south and north of Israel. Israeli authorities have registered nearly 40,000 cases of destruction and damage to properties and structures as a result of direct hits by rockets, drones and other attacks. Economic losses are significant, including in the tourism sector, with rising unemployment, and businesses have submitted over 520,000 cases for compensation for damage related to the hostilities.

VI. Efforts by the parties and the international community to advance the peace process and other relevant developments

50. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. No such steps were taken during the reporting period.

51. In the same resolution, the Security Council called upon all parties to continue, in the interest of the promotion of peace and security, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process and urged in that regard the intensification and acceleration of international and regional diplomatic efforts and support aimed at achieving, without delay, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Road Map, and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967.

52. A number of countries took steps to sanction extremists, including extremist settlers and Palestinian groups. In April, the Council of the European Union sanctioned four persons and two entities. The United States sanctioned one person

and two entities in connection with violence and human rights abuses committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinians and the financing of associated extremist organizations. The United States also imposed sanctions on a militant Palestinian group centred in the old city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank. In May, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland announced settler violence-related sanctions against two entities and four persons. Canada also announced sanctions against four persons accused of “engaging directly or indirectly in violence against Palestinians and their property”.

53. On 10 May, the General Assembly adopted a resolution in which, *inter alia*, it determined that “the State of Palestine is qualified for membership in the United Nations, in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations”. The Assembly recommended that “the Security Council reconsider the matter favourably, in the light of this determination and of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 28 May 1948, and in strict conformity with Article 4 of the Charter”.

54. On 16 May, Arab leaders, in a statement at the 33rd session of the Arab Summit of the League of Arab States, called for, *inter alia*, the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces “from all areas” of Gaza and “the deployment of international protection and peacekeeping forces affiliated with the United Nations in the occupied Palestinian territory until the two-State solution is implemented”. They further called upon the international community to “take decisive measures to end the Israeli occupation” and “to convene an international peace conference and to take irreversible steps to implement the two-State solution”.

55. On 28 May, Ireland, Norway and Spain formally recognized the State of Palestine, as did Slovenia on 4 June.

VII. Observations

56. I once again strongly condemn the horrific armed attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Israel on 7 October 2023 and the continued holding of hostages in Gaza. Nothing can justify these acts of terror. I reiterate my call for all hostages to be released immediately and unconditionally. I remain appalled that there are reasonable grounds to believe that hostages may be subjected to ongoing sexual violence and abuse. While in captivity, hostages must be treated humanely and allowed to receive visits and assistance from the Red Cross. I reiterate that there is no justification for the deliberate killing, maiming, torture and abduction of civilians and other protected persons and the use of sexual violence against them. The use of human shields and the firing of indiscriminate rockets towards Israeli population centres are violations of international humanitarian law and must cease.

57. The scope of death and destruction in Gaza as a result of hostilities has been catastrophic and horrifying. The use by Israel of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in densely populated areas has caused the wholesale destruction of neighbourhoods and the destruction of or damage to hospitals and other civilian infrastructure, schools, mosques and United Nations premises. Nothing can justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people. I unequivocally condemn the widespread killing and maiming of civilians in Gaza, including women and children.

58. The manner in which hostilities are conducted continues to leave me deeply alarmed at what may be violations of international humanitarian law by both parties to the conflict, including possible non-compliance with the requirements of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack. International humanitarian law applies to all parties to a conflict at all times, and its application does not depend on reciprocity. The protection of civilians is paramount in any armed conflict.

59. I have repeatedly expressed my grave concern at the impact of the ongoing hostilities on the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The life-threatening conditions facing the more than 1.7 million internally displaced persons within an ever-diminishing space in Gaza, where nowhere is safe, must be addressed immediately. I reiterate my serious objection to the ongoing Israeli military operation in the city of Rafah amid clear indications of its devastating consequences for the civilian population.

60. Overall, the level of essential goods, including humanitarian assistance, that has been allowed into Gaza is completely and wholly inadequate to meet the overwhelming needs of the population. The United Nations and the civilian population need the predictable entry and unimpeded movement of food, shelter materials, medicine and fuel and the capacity to repair essential, life-saving infrastructure, including the health-care system. This must comprise commercial and humanitarian goods, given that humanitarian assistance alone cannot meet the needs of 2.3 million people. Attacks on hospitals have left health care decimated at a time of drastically increased needs, including life-saving treatment for those injured in the current escalation. While I positively note the opening of additional entry points for humanitarian aid, all necessary access points must be opened and made fully operational, and humanitarian access must be sustained. I call upon Israel to fulfil its obligations under international law, including allowing and facilitating the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief into and throughout Gaza. All parties must protect humanitarian workers at all times. Attacks on humanitarian aid workers and facilities are unacceptable and must cease immediately. I reiterate my call for the full investigation of all such incidents and accountability for any violations of international law that may have been committed.

61. I am deeply alarmed by reports that mass graves have been discovered in several locations in Gaza, including the Shifa' and Nasser medical complexes. There are competing narratives around several of these mass graves, including serious allegations that some of those buried were unlawfully killed. It is imperative that independent international investigators with forensic expertise be allowed immediate access to the sites of these mass graves to establish the precise circumstances under which hundreds of Palestinians lost their lives and were buried, or reburied. The families of the dead and missing have a right to know what happened, and the world has a right to accountability for any violations of international law that may have taken place.

62. All parties to the conflict must respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, including by taking constant care to spare the civilian population and civilian objects and by taking all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event to minimize, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects. Ordering and directing the massive displacement of the members of the population without ensuring that they will be provided with shelter, food, water, medicine, hygiene, health and safety also raises serious concerns about compliance with the applicable legal requirements. It is imperative that civilians be allowed to leave for safer areas and to voluntarily return, as soon as circumstances permit.

63. I reiterate my call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. Along with my Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, I am continuously engaged with all stakeholders towards these objectives and stand ready to support the implementation of an agreement. I welcome the efforts, including by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, to overcome the significant obstacles and reach a deal. I am deeply concerned that the failure to reach a deal, the continued intensity of fighting in Gaza and the advancement of military operations in Rafah complicate the resumption of negotiations to achieve a ceasefire and the release of all hostages and further risk an escalation to a wider

regional conflagration. Security Council resolutions on the conflict must be fully implemented.

64. I remain deeply troubled by continued Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which is fuelling tensions, impeding access by Palestinians to their land and threatening the viability of a future independent Palestinian State. I reiterate that all Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have no legal validity and are in flagrant violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. I urge the Government of Israel to cease all settlement activity immediately, in line with its obligations under international law.

65. I note with deep concern the large State land declaration by Israel in the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank, which could further undermine the viability of a fully independent, democratic, contiguous and sovereign Palestinian State. While I take note of a subsequent military order declaring the area a closed military zone, the announcement by Israel that the Disengagement Law restrictions on Israelis entering three areas of the northern West Bank will no longer apply is also concerning.

66. The demolition and seizure of Palestinian-owned structures, including internationally funded humanitarian projects, as well as structures related to income generation and the provision of essential services, entail numerous human rights violations and raise concerns about the risk of forcible transfer. I once again call upon the Government of Israel to end this practice and prevent the possible displacement and forced eviction of Palestinians, in line with its international obligations, and to approve plans to allow Palestinians to build legally and address their development needs.

67. The escalating violence and tensions in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are deeply worrying and could explode at any moment. Intensified armed exchanges between Palestinians and Israeli security forces using increasingly sophisticated weaponry in the occupied West Bank, predominantly in the context of Israeli security operations, alongside settler-related violence, have also exacerbated tensions and led to exceedingly high levels of detentions, casualties and extreme anger among the population. I am concerned that this dynamic is further undermining the Palestinian Authority, which is facing a severe fiscal crisis, and leading to an unliveable situation for thousands of Palestinians, many in refugee camps, with the population citing heightened insecurity, unemployment and decreasing services as central factors driving them from their homes.

68. I reiterate that security forces in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable to protect life. I call upon Israel to abide by its obligations under international law, including with regard to the proportional use of force, and ensure thorough, independent and prompt investigations into all instances of possible excessive use of force, holding those responsible to account.

69. I am alarmed by the lethal attacks carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinians, including sometimes in the proximity and with the support of Israeli security forces, and by Palestinians against Israelis. Israeli settlers are rarely held accountable for violent attacks, fuelling tensions and increasing the level of threat to Palestinians and their property. I urge Israel, as the occupying Power, to ensure the safety and security of the Palestinian population and to investigate and hold perpetrators of all attacks accountable. Attacks by Palestinians against Israelis must also cease. All perpetrators of attacks must be held accountable.

70. I am deeply concerned about the large number of Palestinians, including children, detained by Israeli security forces and the increase in the number of Palestinians held in administrative detention, without charge or trial, by Israel since

7 October 2023. Reports of torture and other ill-treatment during arrest and detention, including some forms of sexual violence, are also deeply concerning.

71. I am appalled at the numerous instances during the reporting period in which officials glorified violence and engaged in dangerous provocations, incitement and inflammatory language, which will only lead to greater polarization and risks further bloodshed. Leaders have an obligation to clearly and explicitly condemn acts of terror and violence directed against civilians. The incitement to violence must stop immediately.

72. I reiterate and amplify my call to the parties for the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem to be respected and upheld, taking into account the special and historic role of Jordan as custodian of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

73. I welcome the financial contributions of donors to UNRWA that will allow it to maintain core operations until August 2024 and urge further financial support to the Agency to close the significant financial gap to meet the needs in Gaza. I am, however, deeply concerned by continued attacks on the Agency's facilities and activities.

74. I welcome the appointment of a new Palestinian Government and am encouraged by its reform plan. The United Nations stands ready to support the Palestinian Authority in implementing critical reforms, including those that increase civic space, improve service delivery and prepare the Palestinian Authority to govern and lead recovery and reconstruction efforts in Gaza. With eight ministers from Gaza, the Government has a genuine opportunity to take concrete steps towards unifying Gaza and the occupied West Bank politically, economically and administratively. However, the new Government will be unable to make sustainable progress without significant support and assistance.

75. It is vital that the international community seize this pivotal moment and provide immediate support to the new Palestinian Government to address its fiscal challenges, strengthen its governance capacity and prepare it to reassume its responsibilities in Gaza. Palestinian unity is an essential building block to just and lasting peace. The devastation and misery of the past seven months have reinforced a simple truth: Palestinians and Israelis can no longer wait to establish a viable political horizon. Now is the time to lay the foundations for a better future for Palestinians, Israelis and the broader region. Israelis, Palestinians, the States of the region and the broader international community must urgently take steps that will enable the parties to re-engage on the long-delayed political path to achieving a two-State solution. I welcome the adoption of Security Council resolution [2735 \(2024\)](#), in which the Council stressed "the importance of unifying the Gaza Strip with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority". The United Nations will continue to support all such efforts.

76. I remain committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis in ending the occupation and resolving the conflict in line with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and bilateral agreements in pursuit of the vision of two States – Israel and a fully independent, democratic, contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian State, of which Gaza is an integral part – living side by side in peace and security within secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

77. I express my deep appreciation to my Special Coordinator and his team for their outstanding service in what remains a deeply challenging context. I also pay tribute to all United Nations personnel who have lost their lives in this conflict and to all the United Nations personnel and heroic humanitarian aid workers who remain committed to their work despite the enormous danger to their health, well-being and lives.