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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 28 October 2002 from the Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Israeli occupation forces continue to escalate their campaign of terror, State sponsored terrorism, wilful killings, shelling of and incursion into Palestinian areas, razing of agricultural land and all other forms of human rights violations against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory.

On Friday, 25 October, Israeli occupation forces reoccupied the northern West Bank City of Jenin and its refugee camp, terrorizing some 250,000 people on whom a tight curfew was imposed. At least 40 tanks, jeeps and armoured personnel vehicles rumbled into Jenin and its refugee camp, in an invasion, code-named "Operation Vanguard".

Israeli machine-gun fire crackled in the air after hundreds of Israeli soldiers and tanks rumbled into the city just before dawn. Israeli occupation soldiers were shooting at anyone they saw on the streets, as they carried out a house-to-house search, with the Israeli army enforcing the curfew.

In the city centre electric poles were uprooted, cars smashed by tanks and trenches dug on Jenin's main access roads. The top floors of more than 40 homes were seized by Israeli troops, and inhabitants were forced to take refuge in the lower storeys or in the open air. Men were rounded up for questioning at gunpoint, and some of them were taken away by the army to unknown destinations.

In the meantime, Israeli bulldozers rolled into the town and camp guarded by tanks, demolishing houses belonging to Palestinian civilians and damaging several others. Most of the Jenin refugee camp was almost totally levelled.

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Acting in violation of international law and humanitarian law, both of which prohibit collective punishment, Israeli forces demolished 15 more Palestinian houses in Al-Jiftlek area near the West Bank City of Jericho, claiming that they were built without licenses.

On Thursday, 24 October, a 13-year-old Palestinian child from Jenin was killed by machine-gun fire from an Israeli tank. Ahmad Jafar died after being hit in the chest, as around 20 Israeli vehicles invaded the town.

The incursion of the Israeli occupation forces into Jenin and its refugee camp is a continuation of the crimes perpetrated by the occupation army and Jewish settlers against the Palestinian people and their infrastructure, in defiance of all United Nations pertinent resolutions and in flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

Furthermore, Israeli forces had maintained the total siege imposed on the occupied Palestinian territory, collectively punishing the Palestinian population. They partitioned Palestinian areas, transforming them into cantons, and violated the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian population. Recently, three Palestinian patients died at Israeli military checkpoints and border crossings while on their way to hospitals to receive medical treatment.

In an attempt to destroy the Palestinian economy as the olive picking season starts, Israeli settlers, in utter impunity and under the full protection of the Israeli armed forces, continue to attack farmers harvesting their olive crops, damaging and burning olive trees.

On 21 October, Israeli forces issued a military order prohibiting Palestinian farmers from olive-picking. They also razed large areas of Palestinian agricultural land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In a new racist decision, the Israeli authorities imposed a ban on digging new wells in Palestinian areas, in an apparent attempt to damage the Palestinian agricultural sector.

We reiterate our appeal to your Excellency to call on the Government of Israel to put an end to its aggression and attacks against innocent Palestinian civilians, to halt the destruction of Palestinian infrastructure and to live up to its obligations under international humanitarian law, and also to use your good offices in order to provide international protection for the defenceless Palestinian civilian population until Israel withdraws from all the occupied Palestinian territories.

I would be most grateful if you could arrange to have this letter and the annex thereto* circulated to the distinguished members of the Commission on Human Rights, as an official document of its fifty-ninth session under agenda item 8.

(Signed): Nabil RAMLAWI Ambassador Permanent Observer

^{*} Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Saturday, October 20 To: 19.00hrs Sunday, October 21

- [1] Palestinians was killed, [18] were injured, among them [7] children and [24] were arrested. [425] Trees were uprooted and [155] dunams were buildozed and [180] were confiscated for the expansion of Jewish settlements. [23] Houses, [15] vehicles, [6] economic establishments and [1] School were destroyed or damaged. [3] New Israeli military posts were erected and [500] housing units will be built. Palestinian areas were shelled [12] & bombarded by machinegun fire [29] times.
 - ♦ Jerusalem: The occupation forces arrested three Palestinians, one of them was wounded. And [500] housing units will be built in the Jewish settlements in Maale Abomim and Bitar Elet.
 - ♦ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinians in the village of Bet Or wounding a 22-year-old Palestinian. The occupation troops started the building of a new settlement road dividing the Palestinian village Al Mazraa into two and threatening to destroy several houses and olive grove. Meantime, Jewish settlers, backed by the occupation troops, attacked and wounded Palestinian farmers in the village of Turmisaya, burned fields and several vehicles and stole the villagers' olive harvest.
 - ♦ Nablus: One Palestinian was killed by the occupation fire and the occupation forces invaded the village of Tal and arrested two Palestinians. Also Jewish settlers uprooted tens of olive trees, attacked Palestinians and prevented them from reaching their olive farms in the villages of Qasra and Lubban A Sharqia.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Monday, October 21 To: 19.00hrs Tuesday, October 22

- [2] Palestinians were killed, [26] were injured, among them [12] children and [21] were arrested. [435] Trees were uprooted and [96] dunams were bulldozed. [36] Houses, [22] vehicles, [12] economic establishments, [1] institution, [1] clinic, [12] water wells and [4] greenhouses were destroyed or damaged. [3] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [9] & bombarded by machinegun fire [28] times.
 - ♦ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces stormed, searched & ransacked houses in Ein Erek, damaged vehicles and arrested four Palestinians. They also attacked Palestinian olive pickers in Mazra Sharqia and forced them to flee their olive fields.
 - ♦ Nablus: Mouner Methqal Alan (48) died at Hawarah military checkpoint when the occupation forces prevented him reaching the hospital. Meanwhile, the occupation forces bulldozed two family houses in Balata refugee camp and damaged several adjacent houses also, bombarded houses and injured one citizen, stormed houses in Bait EL Ma'a and arrested one citizen and tightened its siege on the entire city and its villages.
 - ♦ Jenin: The occupation forces tightened its siege on the city & its villages and intensified its presence there.
 - ♦ Tolkarem: The occupation forces stormed a house and arrested one citizen.
 - Qalqilya: The occupation forces arrested one Palestinian.

- ♦ Jenin: The occupation forces invaded the village of Aneen, imposed curfew, broke into the secondary school and tens of Palestinians were detained. One Palestinian's house was demolished.
- Qalqilya: The occupation forces invaded the city under heavy fire, imposed curfew and arrested one Palestinian.
- ♦ Hebron: The occupation forces erected several military checkpoints in the city, invaded an educational institution, arrested one Palestinian and took over one house. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers took over [180] dunams of land near the settlement of Shama
- ♦ Bethlehem: The occupation forces invaded, searched and ransacked Palestinian houses the villages of Taqoua and Al Khader and arrested six Palestinians, they imposed curfew in the village of Husan.
- ♦ Northern Gaza: The occupation forces stormed Palestinian areas east of Bet Hanoun and bulldozed one house and [150] dunams of land with olive trees.
- Mid Area: The occupation forces invaded Palestinian areas in Der Al Balah, opened fire at Palestinian houses.
- ♦ Khan Younis: The occupation forces bombarded and severely damaged residential buildings in Al Namsawi neighborhood and arrested five Palestinians at Al Matahen military checkpoint.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Tuesday, October 22 To: 19.00hrs Wednesday, October 23

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[58] Palestinians were injured, among them [12] children, [8] in critical condition, including [3] children and [21] were arrested. [200] Trees were uprooted and [90] dunams were bulldozed. [68] Houses, [24] vehicles, [19] economic establishments and [1] security post were destroyed or damaged. [3] New Israeli military posts were erected. [16] New housing units will be built. Palestinian areas were shelled [31] & bombarded by machinegun fire [51] times.

- ♦ Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces and special troops invaded, searched and ransacked several houses the village of Singel and arrested two Palestinians.
- ♦ Nablus: The occupation forces blew up a family house in Ain Al Ma refugee camp, a number of bystanders were injured and several nearby houses were damaged. The occupation troops also close off the entrance of the village of Bet Foreek and Jewish settlers, backed by the occupation soldiers, attacked Palestinian farmers in the village of Ouarta and stole their olives. One Palestinian was kidnapped in Balata refugee camp by the occupation special troops and [11] Palestinians were injured when a car left by the troops went off.
- ♦ Jenin: The occupation forces invaded the city and the villages of Silat Al Haretia and Kfar Raee, imposed curfew, stormed and search several houses and closed off the main road to the village of Fahma. The occupation soldiers also attacked and detained Palestinian farmers in their farms in the village of Aneen and prevented them from collecting their olives.
- ♦ *Tolkarem*: The occupation forces demolished two family houses in the villages of Khelat Al Kharoub and Ezba Shofa and caused severe damage to nearby houses, trees and the water supply network. The curfew was re-imposed and three Palestinian brothers were arrested.

- ◆ Salfeet: The occupation forces paralyzed the movement of Palestinians and prevented them from harvesting their olive fields.
- ♦ Hebron: Mohammed Ibrahem Al Haymoni (60) died of wounds sustained when the occupation Apache bombarded his vehicle. The occupation forces demolished two family houses and issued demolition orders to another [fifteen houses, a clinic and [15] water wells.
- ♦ Bethlehem: The occupation forces searched and ransacked houses in Bait Fajar village and arrested one Palestinian and tightened its siege on the city. Also, under the protection of the occupation forces, Jewish settlers opened fire at Palestinian olive pickers and foreign activists injuring three of them.
- Gaza: The occupation forces bombarded and damaged one Palestinian security post and bulldozed dunams of olive trees in Johor El Deek area.
- Northern Gaza: The occupation forces bombarded and damaged a security post and bulldozed tens of dunams of agricultural land and [12] water wells.
- ♦ Mid Area: The occupation forces fired at Palestinian houses in AL Heker.
- ♦ Khan Younis: The occupation forces imposed curfew on AL Mawassi area and closed Al Matahen military checkpoint arrested five Palestinians.
- ◆ Rafah: The occupation forces Invaded Al Salaam neighborhood and demolished two family houses, penetrated into and bombarded Block "O" neighborhood and wounded one citizen and ordered families to get out of their houses in order to demolish more than [15] houses.
- ♦ Miscellaneous: The occupation army issued a punitive order prohibiting Palestinian farmers from harvesting their olive that represents the only source of livelihood to them.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Wednesday, October 23 To: 19.00hrs Thursday, October 24

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

[1] Palestinian child was killed, [36] were injured among them [12] children, [6] in critical condition, including [2] children and [73] were arrested. [300] Trees were uprooted and [195] dunams were bulldozed. [30] Houses, [25] vehicles, [19] economic establishments and several security posts were destroyed or damaged. [12] New Israeli military posts were erected. [2] New by-pass roads will be built. Palestinian areas were shelled [15] & bombarded by machinegun fire [33] times.

- *Jerusalem*: The occupation forces demolished [5] residential houses and a farm in Beit Haneena and attacked its owner.
- Ramallah & Al Birah: The occupation forces started erecting a security barbed wire fence on Palestinians' owned land and confiscated about two dunams. Tens of Palestinian protesters who tried to break the siege were arrested.
- Jenin: The occupation forces, under cover of heavy machinegun fire, invaded the city opening indiscriminate fire at Palestinian residential houses. Ahmed Abu Jaafer, 16, was shot dead with a bullet in the head and a number of Palestinians were injured among them the child Ali Nabhan, 11, and Ashraf Jalamna, 17. Several damages were caused to houses. They also invaded the towns of Tammon and Tobas, imposed tight curfew, erected military checkpoints in between, arrested Palestinians and opened fire at farmers injuring a number of them.
- *Tolkarem*: A strict curfew continued to be imposed on the city and its suburbs for the third consecutive day. The occupation also erected a military checkpoint, opened fire at farmers while fruit- harvesting and attacked them.
- Qalqilya: The occupation forces invaded the city re-imposed curfew, searched houses, ransacked properties, arrested [12] Palestinians and prevented farmers from their jobs.
- Salfeet: The occupation Special Forces invaded the city and arrested many Palestinians.

- ♦ Qalqilya: The occupation forces bulldozed tens of dunams of agricultural land in the village of Habla. Meantime, they continued to bulldoze Palestinian land in the villages of Joyous and Ezba Sulaiman for the Security Wall.
- ♦ *Hebron*: The occupation forces bombarded residential buildings in the Nemra area. Two houses were totally destroyed and the occupation forces prevented fire fighters from reaching the area. Meanwhile, the occupation forces authorized the construction of [16] permanent housing units in Tal Rumeida.
- ♦ Bethlehem: The occupation forces delivered demolition orders to three families in Um Al Berka area.
- ♦ *Jericho*: The occupation forces invaded and closed off the village of Al Oja, erected checkpoints and demolished [16] houses, [7] mobile homes and several green houses.
- ♦ Gaza: The occupation forces bombarded a National Security post near Al Shuhada crossing, invaded Al Meghraga area and stormed and searched several houses. They also opened fire at Palestinian farmers near Al Shuhada cemetery
- ♦ Mid Area: The occupation forces opened indiscriminate fire at Palestinian fishermen near Der Al Balah, and invaded and searched a Palestinians ministry official's house. Some members of his family were attacked.
- ♦ Khan Younis: The occupation forces invaded Qizan Al Najjar area, bombarded Palestinian houses in Al Eskan, Al Qassas and Al Farraheen neighborhoods, and demolished a family house. Several nearby houses were damages.
- ♦ Rafah: Covered by Apache machinegun fire and tank shells, the occupation forces invaded Al Salaam neighborhood and blew up a family house, [23] bystanders, including eight children, were hurt by shrapnel and several houses were damaged. The occupation soldiers prevented ambulances from reaching the scene. The occupation troops also bulldozed tens of dunams of agricultural land and the soldiers took over several buildings and transformed them into military posts.
- ♦ *Miscellaneous*: The occupation forces prevented [67] Palestinians from visiting their loved ones in the Israeli prisons despite the permissions they had.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People From: 19.00hrs Thursday, October 24 To: 19.00hrs Friday, October 25

- [2] Palestinians were killed, including [1] child, [36] were injured among them [7] children, [5] in critical condition, including [2] children and [12] were arrested. [18] Houses, [28] vehicles, [10] economic establishments and several security posts were destroyed or damaged. [6] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [13] & bombarded by machinegun fire [30] times.
 - ◆ Jenin: Hundreds of occupation soldier, backed by scores of heavy military vehicles, invaded the city and its refugee camp and opened fire at Palestinians and their houses, wounding six Palestinians, two critically, and causing severe damage. They also took over more than [40] houses, transformed them into military bases and used their owners as human shields. A number of Palestinians were arrested.
 - Bethlehem: The occupation forces attacked a Palestinian girl student at the military checkpoint of Gilo and detained her for more than three hours.
 - Gaza: The occupation forces opened fire at a number of journalists near the Jewish settlement of Netsareem and erected a new military post near Al Shuhada crossing.
 - ♦ Rafah: A 17-year-old Palestinian boy was killed when the occupation forces bombarded the eastern area of the city. Another Palestinian 60 died from wounds sustained ten days ago when the occupation forces invaded the city. The occupation troops also invaded the city, demolished one house and bombarded Palestinian houses in Tal Al Sultan causing severe damage.
 - ♦ Miscellaneous: The occupation forces invaded Negev detention center and fired machineguns and gas bombs at detainees wounding [16] of them.

- Hebron: The occupation forces invaded the villages of Taffoh, Bani Naeem and Yatta, opened fire at Palestinians and injured [7] children. They also stormed, searched residential houses, security stations, the Bureau of Agriculture and ransacked properties. Two commercial stores were demolished and [40] Palestinians were arrested.
- Bethlehem: The occupation forces demolished one Palestinian's own residential house in the village of Hosan, continued to impose strict curfew on the city and its villages, detained tens of Palestinians at Al Khader military checkpoint for several hours, opened fire and tear canisters at Palestinians and arrested one of them. Meanwhile, the occupation forces bulldozed vast area of agricultural land in Janata in preparation for erecting a 6-km by-pass road through Palestinian villages connecting the Jewish settlement of Harhoma on the mountain of Abu Ghneim.
- Gaza: The occupation forces invaded and bombarded the eastern part of the city with heavy machinegun fire causing severe damages to private and puplic properties.
- North Gaza: The occupation forces bulldozed tens of dunams of agricultural areas in Sudania and opened fire at Palestinian residential houses in Beit Lahia.

<u>The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People</u> From: 19.00hrs Friday, October 25 - To: 19.00hrs Saturday, October 26

- [20] Palestinians were injured among them [8] children, [2] in critical condition and [12] were arrested. [180] Trees were uprooted & [10] dunams were bulldozed. [21] Houses, [18] vehicles, [7] economic establishments, [1] school, [2] greenhouses and several security posts were destroyed or damaged. [6] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [10] & bombarded by machinegun fire [27] times.
 - ♦ Ramallah: The occupation forces closed Naleen military checkpoint isolating eleven villages, opened fire at Palestinians trying to reach their homes critically injuring one citizen and several other suffered bruises.
 - ♦ Jenin: The occupation forces continued to fully occupy the city, searched, ransacked & looted houses, took over more than tens of houses and institutions and transformed them into military bases and used its owners as human shields. A number of Palestinians were arrested, ambulances were not allowed to function and medical staff were not allowed to reach hospitals, held vehicles and a number of Palestinians were injured.
 - ♦ Tolkarem: Under the cover of heavy bombardment, the occupation forces invaded the refugee camp and arrested a number of citizens, fired stun & gas grenades at Palestinians olive pickers and continued to impose curfew on Al Kafryat. They also opened fire at houses in Nour Shams refugee camp & Sieda area and wounded a child and arrested one citizen.
 - ♦ Qalqilya: The occupation forces searched and ransacked a house.
 - ♦ Bethlehem: Taqou Jewish settlers poisoned to death [140] livestock in Rafayda area.
 - ♦ *Hebron*: The occupation forces beefed up its presence in the city, occupied more Palestinian houses, erected more roadblocks and arrested one citizen.
 - ♦ Gaza: The occupation forces penetrated into Palestinian land, opened fire at a number of journalists, children and institution causing damage and demolished one security post.
 - ♦ *Khan Younis:* Occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian houses in Abu Ajeen area and closed Matahen checkpoint and fired at Palestinian vehicles.
 - ♦ Rafah: The occupation forces circled a Palestinian house and ordered its evacuation in order to demolish it and fired at children injuring four of them.

<u>The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People</u> From: 19.00hrs Saturday, October 26 - To: 19.00hrs Sunday, October 27

Israeli occupation troops continue their aggression and now they occupy virtually every Palestinian population center on the West Bank, and maintain a system of checkpoints, security cordons and curfews in the rest of the Palestinian territories. Israeli occupation forces have also cordoned off the Gaza Strip and conducted military attacks against Palestinian installations and houses inside its borders. Under the occupation, Palestinians are prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or shop, and transport for relief provisions has been made difficult, if not impossible; up to half of the 3.3 million Palestinian population is verging on serious malnutrition.

- [4] Palestinians were killed, [14] were injured, among them [3] children, [1] in critical condition and [22] were arrested. [115] Trees were uprooted & [132] dunams were bulldozed. [15] Houses, [7] vehicles and [3] economic establishments were destroyed or damaged. [3] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [7] & bombarded by machinegun fire [21] times.
 - ♦ Ramallah: The occupation soldiers attacked Palestinian truck drivers and merchants at Ramallah-Ber Zeit road and forced more than twelve trucks to unload their cargo and prevented merchants from transporting their merchandise to the villages east and west of the city.
 - ♦ *Nablus:* The occupation special forces assassinated two Palestinians in Kroum Ashour area. One Palestinian child was critically wounded.
 - ♦ Jenin: One Palestinian [17] was killed when the occupation forces fired machineguns at Palestinian houses in the eastern area. Several others were also wounded. The occupation troops stormed searched and ransacked several houses in Al Marrah neighborhood and arrested more than [20] Palestinians including two Palestinian doctors. The occupation troops also invaded the village of Maraqa, massed troops in several other villages, opened fire at residential buuildings, erected a new military checkpoint at the northern entrance of the city and detained hundreds of of Palestinians and bulldozed the main Jenin-Nablus road.
 - ◆ Qalqilya: The occupation troops continue to bulldoze and annex thousands of dunams of the city's lands for the so-called security wall.

Hebron: The occupation troops took over two buildings in the area of Ein Kheir Al Deen and erected three military points on the top of another three houses.

- ◆ Gaza: The occupation forces bulldozed vast areas of land in the area of Al Meghraga.
- ◆ Mid Area: The occupation forces invaded Al Hekr area and stationed in private Palestinian lands and bulldozed tens of fruitful trees.
- ♦ Rafah: One Palestinian was killed and [4] others, including two children, were wounded when the occupation Apaches bombarded and fired high caliber machineguns at Palestinian houses in Al Barazil neighborhood. Several houses were severely damaged. The occupation troops also took over several family houses and detained their owners in one room. Several other houses were bulldozed.

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