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

**Letter dated 4 November 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 crimes of excessive use of force, extrajudicial assassinations, detentions, house demolitions and land confiscation by razing agricultural farms and uprooting fruit trees in the occupied Palestinian territory, thus causing more martyrs, wounded and homeless among the innocent Palestinian civilians. So far, at least 2,000 Palestinians have been killed since September 2000 at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces. Many Palestinian controlled areas are still subjected to the curfew regime. Tulkarem has been under constant curfew for the last 13 days and Jenin for the last 8 days. In total, the West Bank has been under this curfew regime for over 130 days now.

In Jenin, a 15-year-old boy was shot dead last week when he went for a walk during the curfew. In the same city, a 21-year-old man was also killed during the curfew by an Israeli sniper who shot him in the head.

On Monday, 28 October, Israeli forces shot and killed Ahmad Anbad (aged 17) in Tulkarem. He was shot by the Israeli forces at a distance of no more than 150 metres, for no apparent reason.

These crimes of wilful killings constitute a flagrant violation of the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law, particularly those relating to the right to life, and a grave breach of articles 3 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949.

Israel, the occupying Power, also continues to pursue its policy of house demolitions as a punitive measure against innocent Palestinian civilians.

On Thursday, 31 October, Israeli forces surrounded the houses of four families from the Jenin refugee camp. Israeli troops forced those families to leave their houses without giving them time to collect their personal belongings. They planted explosives in four homes where six families lived. In total, 37 people, including 14 children, became homeless as a result of this punitive measure. The houses were totally destroyed, without any of the belongings inside being rescued. Severe damage was also caused to the houses nearby.

Since September 2000, at least 1,046 houses have been demolished, leaving 7,844 people homeless.

Not only are the acts of house demolitions and destruction of property committed by Israel as a collective punishment illegal, but they also constitute a flagrant violation of articles 53 and 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Such acts further constitute extrajudicial punishment and arbitrary interference in home and property.

Furthermore, Israeli forces assassinated four Palestinians only last week.

On 30 October, Ayed Baker Mansour, aged 35, from Kufar Qalil near Nablus, was assassinated by Israeli forces. The incident occurred as Mansour was making his way from his car to his house. Mansour left three children behind.

On 29 October, Israeli forces assassinated Issam Sawafteh, aged 19, from Tubas near Jenin. A large number of soldiers surrounded the house where Issam was staying, took his brother and father from their house by force and used them as a human shield. Then the Israeli occupation forces without giving any warning opened heavy fire at the two-storey house, destroying parts of it, and then began to shoot at Issam from a distance of no more than one metre.

On 27 October, two Palestinians, Ahmad Jawdatallah, aged 23, and Alaa Khadayriyyeh, aged 24, from Nablus were both killed in an extrajudicial execution.

In Ras al-Ein, Nablus, four armed men from Israel's Special Forces, which can more appropriately be described as "death squads", aimed their guns at two men and opened heavy fire, from a distance of no more than 20 metres. Both died instantly with more than 20 bullets found in their bodies. After executing the two men, the Special Forces escaped by shooting indiscriminately at civilians in their cars. One child, Yazan Fatayir, aged 7, was critically injured with a bullet in his head.

There have been at least 176 assassinations by Israeli forces since September 2000, including 63 of Palestinian bystanders. All these killings constitute a grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and as such are considered war crimes. Such acts constitute a flagrant violation of that Convention, which seeks to protect the lives of the civilian population, and of human rights norms that affirm the right to life and prohibit the execution of civilians.

To further illustrate the daily human rights violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces against civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory, memorandums issued by the Palestinian National Authority covering the period from Monday 28 October to Sunday 3 November 2002 are enclosed herewith.

We appeal to Your Excellency to condemn Israel's systematic policy of assassinations and demolitions, to hold the Government of Israel responsible for these human rights violations, to urge it to abide by international norms, to live up to its obligations under international humanitarian law and to refrain from committing crimes against innocent civilians. We also appeal to Your Excellency to call for the immediate deployment of an international protection presence to prevent human rights violations and protect the Palestinian 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 Monday, October 28 - To: 19.00hrs Tuesday, October 29

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 was assassinated, [20] were injured, among them [6] children, [2] in critical condition and [60] were arrested. [75] Trees were uprooted & [10] dunams were bulldozed. [23]*Houses, [18] vehicles and [13] economic establishments, [2] schools and [2] institutions were destroyed or damaged. [3] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [12] & bombarded by machinegun fire [26] times.

- ◆ *Jerusalem:* The occupation forces erected a military checkpoint at entrance of Essawya village and imposed provocative measures on the citizens, invaded Badou village and stormed houses and prevented Sheikh Bassam Abu Libda from entering the Nobel Sanctuary.
- ◆ *Ramallah:* The occupation forces started to survey Palestinian land in preparation to erect the so-called Security Fence.
- ◆ *Nablus:* The occupation forces arrested two citizens and Jewish settlers attacked olive - harvesters and prevented them from picking their olive.
- ◆ *Jenin:* The occupation forces assassinated Issam Sobhi Sawafta and kidnapped his body, invaded Tobass using heavy machine gunfire and shelling, stormed houses and institutions, arrested [20] citizens and prevented water - tankers from delivering water. They also demolished two family houses in the refugee camp and arrested tens of citizens in several villages.
- ◆ *Qalqilya:* The occupation forces broke into and ransacked several schools.
- ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces arrested tens of citizens in the Commercial Mall, erected several roadblocks, forced Palestinians to close their stores, raided Beit Kahel village and searched houses and arrested one citizen. They also opened fire at Palestinians in Halhoul and wounded five citizens.
- ◆ *Khan Younis:* The occupation forces bombarded houses in Faraheen area causing damage.

- ◆ *Hebron*: The occupation forces stormed and searched houses, ransacked properties and arrested [2] Palestinians in the village of Bani Naeem.
- ◆ *Bethlehem*: The occupation forces stormed in, searched and ransacked houses in Al Khader area and arrested two Palestinians.
- ◆ *Northern Gaza*: The occupation forces bombarded residential areas and arrested one Palestinian at Eretz crossing.
- ◆ *Mid Area*: The occupation forces raided and bombarded Al Hikr area and searched Palestinian houses.
- ◆ *Khan Younis*: The occupation forces closed down Al Matahin checkpoint, searched Palestinian vehicles and arrested two citizens.
- ◆ *Rafah*: Under cover of heavy bombardment, the occupation forces penetrated in block "O" area for hundreds of meters, blew up [6] houses, bulldozed vast area of agricultural land and uprooted tens of olive trees and greenhouses.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Tuesday, October 29

To: 19.00hrs Wednesday, October 30

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.

[2] Palestinian were killed, [26] were injured, among them [9] children, [3] in critical condition and [69] were arrested. [470] Trees were uprooted & [115] dunams were bulldozed. [54] Houses, [23] vehicles and [10] economic establishments, [2] security posts and [3] institutions were destroyed or damaged. [4] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [22] & bombarded by machinegun fire [47] times.

- ◆ **Jerusalem:** The occupation special troops besieged a Palestinian's house and attacked citizens.
- ◆ **Ramallah:** The occupation special troops invaded Palestinian houses in Qalandia refugee camp and in the village of Siluad, stormed Qalandia sports club, detained [50] Palestinians in the village's main square and arrested [6] and erected several new military checkpoints. They also bulldozed vast areas of land between Ramallah and Jerusalem for the so-called security wall and stormed and destroyed [10] houses in the village of Bet Rima.
- ◆ **Nablus:** The occupation forces invaded the villages of Bet Foureek, Ouarta, Ras El Ein neighborhood and Balata refugee camp, stormed and ransacked Palestinian houses imposed curfew and arrested two Palestinians. One house was totally destroyed.

- ◆ *Jenin*: The curfew continues to be imposed in the city and its refugee camp, and the occupation troops stormed Palestinian houses and arrested [18] Palestinians, including four medical staff. The occupation troops also invaded several institutions and confiscated documents and equipment.
- ◆ *Tolkarem*: The occupation forces shot and killed one Palestinian in the village of Zita and invaded, under heavy fire, the city's refugee camp and Al Salam neighborhood, wounding a number of Palestinians, including an 80-year-old woman who was critically injured. They also stormed Palestinian houses and a police station and arrested [18] Palestinians, six of them were policemen, and bulldozed tens of olive trees in the village of Kofor El labad.
- ◆ *Bethlehem*: The occupation troops tightened repressive measures at Kfor Etsion Jewish settlement and detained and searched tens of Palestinians, including women and children, preventing them from reaching the city of Bethlehem.
- ◆ *Gaza*: The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses in Al Zahra and El Sheik Ejleen neighborhoods. Several houses were severely damaged, including a National Security post. They also bulldozed vast area of land near Netsareem Jewish settlement and opened fire at Palestinian vehicles.
- ◆ *Northern Gaza*: The occupation forces invaded Palestinian houses in Bet Hanoun, destroyed [4] houses and wounded [20] Palestinians. They also bombarded Palestinian houses in Bet Lahya and bulldozed tens of dunams of agricultural land.
- ◆ *Mid Area*: The occupation forces bombarded residential areas in Johr El Deek causing damage.
- ◆ *Khan Younis*: The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses in the refugee camp and Al Amal & Al Namsawi neighborhoods, critically wounding one Palestinian and causing severe damage.
- ◆ *Rafah*: A 60-year-old Palestinian woman died of wounds sustained earlier and the occupation forces invaded Al Barazil neighborhood and destroyed [9] houses and parts of a mosque.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People
From: 19.00hrs Wednesday, October 30
To: 19.00hrs Thursday, October 31

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, [35] were injured, among them [15] children, [7] in critical condition including [5] children, and [43] were arrested. [580] Trees were uprooted & [90] dunams were bulldozed. [37] Houses, [19] vehicles and [24] economic establishments, [2] security posts, [2] institutions and [1] School were destroyed or damaged. [5] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [20] & bombarded by machinegun fire [44] times.

- ◆ **Ramallah & Al Birah:** The occupation troops opened fire at Palestinians killing one of them and invaded Palestinian houses in the village of Malik, searched and ransacked properties and arrested two Palestinians.
- ◆ **Nablus:** The occupation Special Forces assassinated Ayed Mansour, 37, in the town of Kofr Qalil, and wounded [3] children, [2] critically in the village of Tel.
- ◆ **Jenin:** The occupation forces continued their aggression against Palestinians in the city and its refugee camp. They massed troops, stormed houses & governmental institutions and arrested tens of Palestinians. They also blew up five family houses and invaded and ransacked warehouses in the industrial zone. Several houses in the village of Qabatia were invaded and searched.

- ◆ *Qalqilya:* The occupation troops invaded, searched and ransacked Palestinian houses in the villages of Zeta and Denaba, imposed curfew, arrested five and opened fire and wounded a 15-year-old boy.
- ◆ *Tolkarem:* The occupation troops shot and killed two Palestinians in the refugee camp and bulldozed tens of dunams in Jayous and Ezbat Suleiman villages, arrested one Palestinian and opened fire and wounded three others. Another Palestinian was kidnapped.
- ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinians wounding [10], two critically, and destroyed tens of stores in the old city. They also invaded the village of Beni Naeem and Yatta, stormed and searched houses, took over one house and arrested a number of Palestinians.
- ◆ *Bethlehem:* The occupation forces closed the main road and erected a new military point at the entrance of Al Khudar.
- ◆ *Northern Gaza:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinians houses in Bet Hanoun and north of the American School and destroyed one water well in Al Sudaneya.
- ◆ *Mid Area:* The occupation forces invaded Palestinian areas in Abu Al Ajeen area, stormed and searched Palestinian houses and bulldozed tens of dunams of land.
- ◆ *Khan Younis:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses in Al Namsawi neighborhood and Khan Younis refugee camp, critically injuring one Palestinian and causing severe damage. They also invaded Kizan A INajar, bulldozed [20] duanms of land and destroyed [150] olive trees and started to build a new military post east of Al Qarara.
- ◆ *Rafah:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses in Al Salam and Tal Al Sultan neighborhoods, critically wounding two Palestinians and causing damage. They also bulldozed several dunams of land in Al Qassas area.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Thursday, October 31

To: 19.00hrs Friday, November 1

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.

[24] Palestinians were injured, among them [7] children, [2] in critical condition and [19] were arrested. [260] Trees were uprooted & [25] dunams were bulldozed. [22] Houses, [12] vehicles and [8] economic establishments and [1] institution were destroyed or damaged. [2] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [11] & bombarded by machinegun fire [27] times.

- ◆ *Ramallah & Al Birah:* The occupation forces invaded the village of Bet Rima and stormed, searched and ransacked a family building.
 - ◆ *Jenin:* The occupation forces invaded Palestinian houses in the village of Arqala, and arrested [7] Palestinians. Also Jewish settlers brutally attacked Palestinian farmers near the village of Yaabad.
 - ◆ *Hebron:* The occupation forces invaded and damaged Palestinian houses and the HQ of an Italian institution in the city. Several families were forced to leave their houses. The occupation troops continue to close off the commercial center of the city and Jewish settlers destroyed the vegetable market.
 - ◆ *Bethlehem:* The occupation forces imposed curfew in the village of Housan and fired gas bombs and stun grenades at Palestinians wounding a number of them. Meantime, Jewish settlers attacked municipal workers in the village of Zaatara, including the village's mayor from whom, maps and plans were confiscated.
 - ◆ *Northern Gaza:* The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian houses in Bet Hanoun and bulldozed tens of dunams of agricultural land in the area.
- Mid Area:* The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses east of the city of Der El Balah. Several houses were damaged.
- ◆ *Khan Younis:* The occupation forces fired machineguns at a civilian vehicle and wounded one Palestinian. They also bombarded Palestinian houses in Al Namsawi neighborhood and the refugee camp. One Palestinian was critically wounded and several houses were severely damaged.
 - ◆ *Rafah:* The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian houses near the Egyptian borders wounding an 11-year-old child and damaging several houses.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Friday, November 1

To: 19.00hrs Saturday, November 2

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 was killed, [26] were injured, among them [8] children, [4] in critical condition and [18] were arrested. [1540] Trees were uprooted & [1100] dunams were bulldozed. [21] Houses, [17] vehicles and [14] economic establishments, [1] school, [2] institutions, [3] security posts and [2] animal farms were destroyed or damaged. [1] Bypass road was built & [6] new Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [15] & bombarded by machinegun fire [34] times.

- ◆ **Ramallah & Al Birah:** The occupation forces held & attacked tens of Palestinians, detonated one vehicle at the entrance of Qalandia military checkpoint, stormed houses in Dear Amar and arrested one citizen.
- ◆ **Nablus:** The occupation forces opened fire at the city and wounded six Palestinians, raided several Palestinian villages and imposed curfew on many others and arrested many citizens. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers took over more than [50] dunams of Palestinian land in Sarrara area.
- ◆ **Jenin:** Sefyan Al Souki (70) died of a heart attack when the occupation forces broke into his house. The occupation forces also opened fire at Palestinians and wounded one citizen, broke into the police station and searched and ransacked it and invaded several, villages neighborhoods & houses and arrested ten Palestinians.
- ◆ **Hebron:** The occupation forces continued to impose curfew on the city for the sixth day, invaded and damaged Palestinian houses, stores and vehicles.

Meanwhile, settlement expansion & land confiscation continued where [300] dunams were bulldozed and the building of a settlement road is initiated.

- ◆ **Bethlehem:** The occupation forces fired gas bombs and stun grenades at Palestinian school children in Al Khader village wounding a number of them, detonated a Palestinian vehicle, erected a number of roadblocks and isolated several villages from the city. Meantime, Jewish settlers attacked two Palestinians and closed water well on them near Taquo village.
- ◆ **Gaza:** The occupation forces bombarded Palestinian houses near Nitsarem settlement, penetrated in Wadi Gaza area and bulldozed a road in AL Moghraqa and fired at houses causing damage.
- ◆ **Northern Gaza:** The occupation forces bulldozed [250] dunams of agricultural land in the area and built a road on a Palestinian owned land.
- ◆ **Mid Area:** Under the cover of heavy bombardment, the occupation forces penetrated in Heker area and bulldozed [300] dunams of land, erected military posts and searched Palestinians at Abu Holi military checkpoint.
- ◆ **Khan Younis:** The occupation forces fired machineguns at Palestinian houses in Araysha area causing damage.
- ◆ **Rafah:** The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian houses near Salah Din gate and ordered Palestinians to dismantle their greenhouses to the east of the city and bulldozed many others.

The Israeli Daily Aggression on the Palestinian People

From: 19.00hrs Saturday, November 2

To: 19.00hrs Sunday, November 3

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.

[15] Palestinians were injured, among them [3] children, [2] in critical condition and [18] were arrested. [910] Trees were uprooted & [429] dunams were bulldozed. [48] Houses, [18] vehicles and [11] economic establishments, [1] institutions, [1] security post and [1] animal farm were destroyed or damaged. [5] New Israeli military posts were erected. Palestinian areas were shelled [11] & bombarded by machinegun fire [31] times.

- ◆ **Jerusalem:** The occupation forces demolished a number of Palestinian houses in Jaba, EL Ram, Aqbat and Beit Ikssa areas and attacked its residents and bulldozed olive trees.
- ◆ **Ramallah & Al Birah:** The occupation forces shot & wounded one Palestinian at Qalandia military checkpoint and prevented the ambulance from reaching him.
- ◆ **Nablus:** The occupation forces invaded the city using heavy machinegun fire causing damage to houses and imposed curfew there.
- ◆ **Jenin:** The occupation forces raided the towns of Bourqeen & Ajja and demolished two family houses and damaged thirty adjacent homes; raided Kofor Rai, imposed curfew and chased down school children; arrested three citizens in Tubas and erected road blocks and prevented farmers from reaching their fields in Aghwar area.

- ◆ **Qalqilya:** The occupation forces searched & ransacked homes & stores.
- ◆ **Salfeet:** The occupation forces continued to harass Palestinian farmers and prevented them from picking their olive, stormed and ransacked a police station and arrested one citizen.
- ◆ **Bethlehem:** Tens of livestock were poisoned when Jewish settlers sprayed a poisonous substance in Rashayda area.
- ◆ **Gaza:** The occupation forces penetrated in the area and opened fire.
- ◆ **Northern Gaza:** The occupation forces raided Beit Hanoun area and bulldozed hundreds dunams and trees.
- ◆ **Mid Area:** The occupation forces bulldozed two houses.
- ◆ **Khan Younis:** The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian houses in Baten Samen area wounding a Palestinian and damaging houses.
- ◆ **Rafah:** The occupation forces opened fire at Palestinian houses in Block "J" area and wounded two Palestinians, arrested three citizens in the southern Part of the city and bulldozed land in Brazil area.