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

Security Council  
Seventy-ninth year

## Identical letters dated 8 August 2024 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Let history record – for 10 months, Israel has been committing genocide against the Palestinian people and its actions, particularly in the Gaza Strip, have been breaching every prohibition of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

For 10 months, the world has watched this horrific genocide, witnessing the most barbaric atrocities and yet failing to act to protect the Palestinian civilian population, forsaking the most solemn commitments under the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under customary international law, which are binding on all States.

For 10 months, Israeli occupying forces, under the direct command of Israel's Prime Minister and other Israeli political and military officials, have systematically targeted Palestinian children, women and men, using every form of lethal weaponry in a blatant attempt to punish, harm and cause destruction to them based on their national, racial, ethnic and religious status as a group, namely, their existence as Palestinians.

For 10 months, Israeli soldiers have wantonly and wilfully carried out, inter alia, the following acts of genocide: (a) killing Palestinian civilians by the tens of thousands; (b) causing to them serious physical and mental harm affecting and impairing the entire population; (c) intentionally subjecting them to living conditions intended to cause their physical destruction, including by means of siege, the obstruction of humanitarian access, including to food (causing starvation and famine), water and other life essentials, and the annihilation of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, thereby depriving them of medical care, leaving thousands to die of their wounds, dooming thousands to amputations and fuelling the spread of disease, including respiratory and skin infections, polio and other communicable diseases; (d) inflicting measures that thwart births and endanger the lives of pregnant women, newborn babies and mothers, many of whom have perished in the Israeli onslaught;



and (e) forcibly transferring Palestinian children, kidnapping them and holding them captive, their whereabouts unknown, depriving them of contact with their parents and subjecting them to all forms of physical and psychological ill-treatment, including depraved acts of torture.

Israel is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza and the rest of Occupied Palestine on an unprecedented and shocking scope and scale; its atrocities have been deemed to be, inter alia, “staining our shared humanity” and turning Gaza into “a place of death and despair” and “a graveyard for children”.

Undeterred, for 10 months, Israel has relentlessly targeted Palestinian civilians, while chasing them from one end of Gaza to the other, forcibly displacing 1.9 million people, nearly the entire population, and breaching every single rule of international law that was created to protect civilians in situations of armed conflict.

For over 10 months, Israeli soldiers have maimed, mutilated and killed Palestinian babies and children, crushing thousands to death under the rubble of their homes and places of refuge, one missile or bomb attack after the other, one war plane or drone attack after the other. Those soldiers have killed mothers and fathers, orphaning an estimated 20,000 children, some of whom were left without a single surviving family member. They have massacred entire Palestinian families, wiping out up to four generations in hundreds of cases, even killing families as they desperately sheltered in schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) under the presumed safety of the United Nations flag.

For 10 months, the Israeli army has methodically attacked humanitarian and medical personnel and journalists. At least 203 UNRWA staff members have been killed, the majority teachers, and hundreds of other humanitarians and health-care workers, including doctors, nurses and paramedics, have been killed or injured. At least 113 Palestinian journalists and media workers have also been killed, along with dozens of other civilians attempting to report from Gaza, in a flagrant attempt to impose a media blackout on Gaza and silence Palestinian voices from exposing Israel’s heinous crimes.

For 10 months, Israeli occupying forces have targeted Palestinian youth, particularly young men, for death and for captivity, taking more than 10,000 Palestinians hostage as prisoners since October 2023, imprisoning them in Israeli detention camps and jails, subjecting them to severe humiliation, violent interrogations, medical negligence, the shackling of their arms and legs, causing excruciating injuries requiring the amputation of limbs, and other acts of cruelty and torture, including the rape, or in some cases gang rape, of both men and women, often with physical objects causing severe injuries to their bodies and organs and leading to the hospitalization of some persons and the death of others.

For 10 months, Israeli occupying forces have been on a destruction orgy across Gaza, in the north, centre and south, laying ruin to every area. They have destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes, rendering the majority of the population homeless, displaced and destitute, obliterated vital civilian infrastructure, such as water and sanitation installations and networks, including all wastewater treatment and desalination plants, and damaged or destroyed hospitals, schools, roads, electricity grids, agricultural lands and businesses.

Israel has executed this destruction systematically and wantonly. At least 190 UNRWA facilities have been damaged or destroyed, the majority of them schools, leaving over 600,000 children without access to education, and all of Gaza’s 19 universities have been demolished, depriving over 88,000 youth of higher education and risking the future of an entire generation. Military attacks on UNRWA premises

and staff have been accompanied by an insidious incitement campaign by Israel aimed at smearing and destroying this humanitarian agency, which is serving as a lifeline for millions of Palestine refugees and is recognized as the indispensable backbone of international humanitarian operations in Gaza, in the midst of this catastrophe.

For 10 months, Israeli occupying forces, working hand-in-glove with settler gangs and militias, have rampaged throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, violently raiding Palestinian villages, towns, refugee camps and cities, including through air strikes by drones, killing and injuring civilians, confiscating Palestinian land and property, demolishing homes, forcibly displacing Palestinian civilians and feverishly ramping up Israel's settlement and annexation plans.

For 10 months, Israel has inflicted untold indignations upon the Palestinian people, terrorizing and traumatizing the entire population held captive under its illegal occupation and using ethnic cleansing, colonization, apartheid and genocide as its preferred tools of repression and conquest.

The casualty toll of these 10 months is staggering, and the majority of victims continue to be women and children. More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel since 8 October 2023, the overwhelming majority of them in Gaza, and hundreds were also killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Nearly 100,000 Palestinians have been injured in Israeli attacks, many of them permanently disabled, including at least 4,000 child amputees, and many of whom will die of their wounds without proper medical care, in addition to those who will die of malnutrition, starvation and disease. This shocking list of casualties does not include the 10,000 people who are missing, most of whom are believed to be crushed and entombed under the rubble or in mass graves.

This is the tally of 10 months of genocide by Israel against the Palestinian people, a genocide that is being boasted about by Israeli politicians, who continue to incite violence and racist hatred against Palestinians, and openly displayed by Israeli soldiers, who are posting their acts of savagery against Palestinian civilians on social media for all the world to see.

Ten months on, the international community is still failing in its responsibility to stop these atrocities and failing to uphold obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, such as the obligations to prevent and punish genocide and to prevent and suppress apartheid. The international community is failing to fulfil its solemn duties under the Charter of the United Nations and allowing Israel to carry on with its genocidal onslaught. Some parties are, regrettably, directly complicit in these crimes, including through the provision of arms to Israel, and are enabling its unbridled slaughter of our people and its escalating destabilization of and threats to the region, including through repeated extrajudicial executions and violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States in the region, with dire repercussions.

All of this continues despite global demands for a ceasefire and despite the fact that the General Assembly, after witnessing the unprecedented scale of Israel's atrocities in the early weeks of its aggression on Gaza – where in just three weeks it had already killed over 6,400 Palestinian civilians, among them over 2,500 children, and injured 17,000 people – had the moral clarity on 27 October 2023 to call for an immediate humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities (General Assembly resolution [ES-10/21](#)), followed by its unequivocal demand on 12 December 2023 for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire (General Assembly resolution [ES-10/22](#)).

This continues despite the fact that the Security Council, in its resolution [2712 \(2023\)](#), demanded, inter alia, that all parties comply with their obligations under international law, notably with regard to the protection of civilians, especially

children; demanded, in its resolution [2720 \(2023\)](#), that the parties allow, facilitate and enable the immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance at scale directly to the Palestinian civilian population throughout Gaza; demanded, in its resolution [2728 \(2024\)](#), an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan, to be respected by all parties, leading to a lasting sustainable ceasefire; and, in its resolution [2735 \(2024\)](#), welcomed the ceasefire proposal arrived at by diplomatic efforts and urged the full implementation of its terms without delay and without condition.

This continues despite the International Court of Justice provisional measures orders of 26 January 2024, 28 March 2024 and 24 May 2024, in the case of *South Africa v. Israel* under the Genocide Convention, ordering Israel to, inter alia, not commit acts in violation of the Convention, halt its military offensive, ensure unhindered humanitarian assistance due to the spread of famine and starvation and ensure unimpeded access to bodies mandated by the United Nations to investigate the crimes perpetrated in Gaza and despite the Court's unequivocal determinations in the advisory opinion of 19 July 2024, including, inter alia, that this illegal occupation must be ended as rapidly as possible and that all States are obligated to refrain from rendering aid or assistance in maintaining this illegal situation and to undertake the necessary actions to bring it to an end.

Until when will such flagrant Israeli defiance and crimes be tolerated? The failure to hold Israel accountable for its grave breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and violations of United Nations resolutions has only further emboldened its impunity, with disastrous ramifications for the Palestinian people, our region and global peace and stability. This impunity must be stopped; Israel cannot continue to ignore the demands for a ceasefire, a halt to the genocide against the Palestinian people and an end to its abhorrent, illegal occupation, without consequences.

At this tragic 10-month mark of Israel's genocidal war on our people, we therefore reiterate our calls upon the international community, in particular upon the Security Council and General Assembly, and also upon all States, to act forthwith to uphold their responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and their legal, political and moral obligations to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its crimes and to bring justice to the countless victims and the Palestinian people as a whole.

Only by tangible measures of accountability, in line with international law, will it be possible to mobilize the necessary pressure to compel a halt to Israel's genocidal mania and its dangerous threats to regional and international peace and security and to finally bring an end to its illegal occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine and oppression of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian leadership thus again makes this urgent appeal to the international community – to all peace-loving and law-abiding States – to act immediately to protect the millions of human lives in peril and pursue without any further delays a just and peaceful solution to end this historic injustice that has for too long deprived the Palestinian people of their homeland, their inalienable rights, their dignity and their freedom.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 844 letters on the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 ([A/55/432-S/2000/921](#)) to 31 July 2024 ([A/ES-10/1005-S/2024/588](#)) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against our people, Israel, the

occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyad **Mansour**  
Minister  
Permanent Observer

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