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

Security Council  
Seventy-eighth year

## Identical letters dated 3 January 2023 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

It is with great alarm that we call upon the international community to act urgently to halt the impending explosion of the situation in Occupied Palestine and the grave threats that it poses to international peace and security.

The Security Council must condemn and demand an immediate halt to all aggressions by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people and their holy sites, especially in Jerusalem, which has been targeted yet again by Israeli supremacists and extremists, who are not only aided and abetted by the Israeli government but are part and parcel of it and intent on implementing their racist, illegitimate and immoral agenda, regardless of the risks to millions of civilian lives and to regional and international peace and security.

In this regard, I regret to inform you that the new year has begun with yet another invasion of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif by fanatic Jewish supremacists, led by the so-called “Minister of National Security” of Israel, Itamar Ben-Gvir, a blatant fascist who has repeatedly engaged in incitement against the Palestinian people and against this sacred site and repeatedly stoked violence and terror with his inflammatory rhetoric, hateful threats and provocative actions.

Today, 3 January, Ben-Gvir stormed the courtyards of the Aqsa Mosque with a large contingent of occupying forces after repeated public announcements of his intention to forcibly enter the site, in yet another belligerent attempt to assert Israeli sovereignty, in grave breach of international law, which absolutely prohibits the occupying Power from altering the character, status and demography of the occupied territory.

Moreover, Ben-Gvir, a follower of the terrorist Kach movement, has publicly called for Haram al-Sharif to be divided and for Jewish rituals to be performed there, in flagrant violation of the historic and legal status quo that has, for decades upon decades, preserved a semblance of calm and the sanctity of this most sensitive holy site.



The Security Council must unequivocally condemn these illegal and dangerous actions and demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease its violations and assaults on this holy site and fully comply with its obligations under international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Moreover, Israel must be demanded to uphold forthwith, in word and deed, the historic and legal status quo at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and to respect the sole authority of the Islamic Awqaf at the holy site and the custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.

A strong message must be sent to this Israeli government – widely acknowledged across the international community, and even by many Israelis, as the most extreme, right-wing Israeli government – that such violations will not be permitted under any pretext and that the consequences for these aggressions and crimes will be severe.

Moreover, the international community is duty-bound to reaffirm its rejection and non-recognition of any Israeli claims of sovereignty in any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in Jerusalem and at its holy sites. It is incumbent upon the Security Council to remind Israel that it is the occupying Power and has no sovereignty rights whatsoever in Occupied Palestine. It must be reaffirmed, as underscored in Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), that the Council will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations. Likewise, the obligation of distinction, as called for in resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), is of paramount importance for all States to uphold in their actions and relations with regard to the occupying Power.

The Security Council has the opportunity to act now to set the tone for this new year indicating that the violation of international law and human rights will not be tolerated and that there will be accountability and consequences for the perpetrators.

The Security Council has the opportunity to break its paralysis and to act, in letter and spirit, in accordance with its duties under the Charter of the United Nations to confront what is clearly a threat to international peace and security.

The Security Council has the opportunity to shoulder its responsibilities and reaffirm the primacy of the Charter and the rule of law at this moment, when they are in such jeopardy, and to reassert that conflict prevention and conflict resolution are its *raison d'être*.

The Security Council cannot remain a bystander in the face of this perilous situation and must make its voice heard and assert its authority. Only such urgent, serious action can avert the violent explosion and religious war that this Israeli government and its hateful, racist extremists are threatening to provoke and save the lives of the millions of Palestinian men, women and children endangered by this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

In the face of the extreme dangers posed by Israel's continued assaults, especially on the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and on our civilians – including the killing of more children, among them 15-year-old Adam Ayyad, who was shot in the chest today by Israeli soldiers in a raid of the Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem, and two more youths, Mohammad Samer Houshieh, age 22, and Fuad Mahmoud Abed, age 25, who were shot and killed yesterday in an Israeli military raid on the town of Kafr Dan in the northern West Bank – President Abbas has instructed us to call for the convening of an emergency Security Council meeting for immediate action.

We urge the Security Council and the international community as a whole to respond swiftly to our pleas and to uphold their responsibilities towards bringing a

halt to the reign of violence and terror that has long been perpetrated by the Israeli government, military and settler militias against the Palestinian people, their holy sites and their very existence. At the forefront of efforts must be tangible actions for accountability – by the Council, by the General Assembly, by all States and in courts of law, including the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. We call upon the international community to act now without delay for the sake of the human lives at risk and for the sake of justice and peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 773 letters regarding the ongoing historic injustice against the Palestinian people and the crimes being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, 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 20 December 2022 (A/ES-10/920-S/2022/985), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter circulated 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