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

Security Council
Seventy-seventh year

Identical letters dated 31 May 2022 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

Following countless warnings and appeals to the international community, foremost to the Security Council, we again call for immediate attention to the volatile situation in Occupied Palestine, as Israel, the occupying Power, its military forces and extremist settler militias intensify their violent and racist assaults against the Palestinian people and their very presence in their land, especially in and around Jerusalem.

The situation on the ground is rapidly destabilizing and the safety and well-being of millions of innocent civilians and both regional and international peace and security are under threat as religious fanaticism and supremacist ideologies have become the predominant driving forces of the criminal actions by Israel and the hundreds of thousands of Jewish settlers it has illegally transferred to our land in its blatant scheme to colonize and annex the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, it has illegally seized by force and occupied for 55 years.

Urgent collective action is needed to bring a halt to this dangerous downward spiral, to protect civilian lives, to protect the sanctity of the holy sites in Jerusalem, particularly the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif – which continues to be the primary target of attacks, provocation and incitement by fanatic Jewish settlers, including among them Israeli officials – and to salvage the possibility for a just solution to this grave injustice against the Palestinian people.

On Sunday, 29 May 2022, the day designated by Israel as its so-called “Jerusalem Day”, thousands of extremist Israelis stormed Jerusalem’s Old City and the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif to “celebrate” Israel’s seizure and military occupation of East Jerusalem in the June 1967 war.

On this day, year after year, Israelis literally celebrate their breach of one of the cardinal principles of the Charter of the United Nations: the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force. In the most crude, violent fashion, they actually celebrate their systematic violation of this foundational tenet of peaceful international



relations and unashamedly declare to the world their absolute rejection of the rule of law, contempt for the Charter, disdain for the international community's demands for respect of the law, and intent to maintain control of the City they have illegally occupied and annexed. These are the facts of Israeli policy and behaviour, enabled by an international community that has failed to hold Israel accountable for any of its breaches of international law, thereby emboldening its impunity to such grotesque and dangerous levels.

Thus, with the full support of the Israeli government and its military apparatus, Jewish extremists held the so-called "Flag March" to mark the day. Tens of thousands of Israelis rampaged through the streets of Jerusalem and its Old City carrying Israeli flags to assert their control of the City and shouting threats and racist slogans, including "death to the Arabs", "Shireen is dead" (in reference to Israel's recent killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh), "may your village burn", "Shufat [refugee camp] is on fire" and curses against the Prophet Muhammad. Moreover, they destroyed property and attempted to burn Palestinian flags and violently harassed, beat and assaulted Palestinians, including women, children and elderly persons. At least 40 Palestinians were seriously injured and, though they were the target of this racist mob of Jewish extremists, dozens of Palestinians were arrested by the occupying forces, with at least 50 Palestinians detained.

We regret that all warnings prior to the so-called "Flag March" went unheeded and that the global calls for respect of international law and the sanctity of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif were ignored by Israel and the extremist Jewish settlers, who marauded through the holy site with Israeli flags (for the first time since 1967) and performed religious rituals there, grossly violating the historic and legal status quo at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif as a place strictly for Muslim worship and further exacerbating religious sensitivities, risking the explosion of a religious war with dire ramifications.

We reiterate the standing demand for respect of the historic and legal status quo at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif, for the authority of the Islamic Waqf at the holy sites and for the custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan over the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.

Moreover, as repeatedly affirmed by the Security Council, we reiterate that Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem is illegal and null and void. East Jerusalem remains an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, an occupation that is illegal in every manifestation and must end. As per international law, including international humanitarian law as enshrined in the Fourth Geneva Convention and Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and international criminal law as enshrined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Israel is prohibited from altering the demography, character, identity or status of the City or any other part of the Palestinian Territory under its occupation and its presence therein remains that of the occupying Power.

Regardless of Israel's claims or those of its extremist Jewish settler militias, the fact remains that Israel is not the sovereign and has no sovereignty rights whatsoever in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem. The Security Council, the General Assembly and the International Court of Justice – and the international community as a whole – have all affirmed this fact. Sovereignty in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, rests only in the Palestinian people and the State of Palestine, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The international community's demands that Israel cease forthwith all policies and practices aimed at imposing its illegal colonial designs on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem, its Old City and at its holy sites,

including the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif, and entrenching the occupation must be accompanied by serious accountability measures to compel Israel's compliance with international law, including the relevant United Nations resolutions, including, inter alia, Security Council resolutions [476 \(1980\)](#), [478 \(1980\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#).

Concrete measures in accordance with international law, including sanctions, must be taken to hold Israel fully accountable for its brazen contempt of the law and mockery of the international community and for every crime perpetrated by its government, military forces and settlers in forcibly inflicting this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime on the Palestinian people.

In this regard, the collusion of the Israeli government, military and settler militias with one another in the perpetration of such war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people cannot be ignored. This fact was recently underscored by an Israeli military commander, Roi Zwiig, who, in an address on 29 May 2022 to settler students from illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, declared: "It has often been said that the army and the settlements work together. I disagree with that; I think the army and the settlement enterprise are one and the same." They must all be held to account to the full extent of the law. The International Criminal Court must carry out its investigation forthwith.

On the eve of the fifty-fifth anniversary since Israel's military occupation of the remainder of historic Palestine began in June 1967, the imperative for action cannot be understated. Clearly, Israel and its settler militias are seeking to impose a fait accompli on the ground while the international community, including the Security Council, remains paralysed and unable to uphold its responsibilities. The international community must act now to break the cycle of impunity and ensure accountability. Moreover, States that have enabled Israel's crimes with political and financial support, including those that have recognized Israel's illegal annexation of East Jerusalem, must immediately cease such support and reverse unlawful decisions forthwith.

It is unconscionable to continue delaying action in the face of such dangerous threats to the safety and well-being of millions of civilians and to regional and international peace and security. It is time for the international community to uphold its responsibilities towards this grave injustice, including the permanent responsibility of the United Nations until a just solution is achieved for the Question of Palestine and the Palestinian people are able to live in freedom, security, peace and dignity in their homeland, including in their capital East Jerusalem.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 754 letters regarding 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 11 May 2022 ([A/ES-10/901-S/2022/388](#)) 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 being committed against the Palestinian 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