

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of the State of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Ref. SGC. 134/24

8 July 2024

Excellency,

**It has been 9 months since Israel launched its genocidal siege and war on Gaza, 9 months of military assaults on a civilian population held captive under a 57-year illegal, foreign occupation that has systematically breached every single law of war, every human right and every moral principle known to humankind.**

**Palestinian children, women and men have been mercilessly slaughtered for 9 months in daily attacks by Israeli occupying forces (IOF). IOF, along with settler militias armed by the government, have used all forms of lethal weaponry and means to intimidate, torture and terrorize our people across every inch of the Occupied State of Palestine. No part of Gaza, north, central or south, no part of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is safe from the Israeli occupation's reach and terror.**

**As of today, Israel has killed more than 38,193 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and injured more than 87,903 people. Thousands more are missing, buried under the rubble, in mass graves or in mass detention, disappeared by Israel without a trace. The casualties in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, stands at 571 Palestinians killed and 5,420 injured by IOF and settlers.**

**Many of the injured are disabled for life and many will die of their wounds, alongside the many who will die of malnutrition and chronically ill persons who will die for lack of medical treatment as Israel has decimated the health system in Gaza, striking hospitals and depriving them of medicines and fuel to operate. The European, Nasser and Al-Ahli hospitals are the latest casualties of Israel's assault on healthcare in Gaza.**

**Moreover, Israel has decimated the ranks of medical personnel, with its relentless attacks on doctors, nurses, medics, as well as its documented detention and torture of medical staff, in addition to its targeting and killing of over 254 humanitarian workers, among them 194 UNRWA staff members, and at least 103 Palestinian journalists in Gaza, including the murder of 6 journalists in recent days.**

**The shocking toll of these past 9 months will only continue rising without the ceasefire long called for by the General Assembly and Security Council. Every day there are over a hundred casualties, with 40 Palestinians killed just today and dozens more injured as this letter is being written.**

**Left without a ceasefire and without protection from their ruthless occupier, children and women constitute the majority of casualties of this Israeli war on the Palestinian people. At least 16,000 children have been murdered by Israel since 8 October 2023, and tens of thousands of children have been wounded, over 2,000 suffering amputations. There is absolutely no excuse or rationale that can justify such slaughter and torment of civilians, such heinous collective punishment, such blatant acts of genocide.**

**And, yet, the international community fails to act to hold Israel to account, to sanction it for its crimes, even after its listing as a serial violator of child rights in the annual UN report on Children and Armed Conflict. The Security Council continues failing to act to enforce its resolutions, including resolutions 2712 (2023), 2720 (2023), 2728 (2024) and 2735 (2024) and to hold Israel accountable for its systematic violations, including of the binding Provisional Measures Orders of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).**

H.E. Mr. Vassily Nebenzia  
The President of the Security Council of the United Nations

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Moreover, **countries continue to transfer weapons and ammunition to Israel, full well knowing these arms will be used to kill Palestinian civilians**, and continue to shield Israel and its government and military leaders from accountability for their crimes, including by **attempts of obstruction at the International Criminal Court (ICC)**.

**This is beyond a betrayal of our people, who have been failed by the international community for decades since the decision in 1947 to strip them of their homeland and strip them of their right to self-determination; it is equally a betrayal of humanity and of the international legal order established to protect all peoples and to ensure international peace and security.**

Left unprotected and defenseless and denied their inalienable rights, despite all the resolutions and all the demands for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, our people have only suffered more horrific atrocities, more loss and more devastation.

While already **over 80% of the housing and nearly every hospital and school** and vast swathes of water and sanitation networks have been destroyed by the IOF in Gaza, the ongoing Israeli onslaught is causing only more mass destruction and mass displacement. This begs the question: **What will be left in Gaza if the Israel war machine is not stopped? Who will be left in Gaza if Israel is not stopped?**

UN estimates are that already at least **9 out of 10 people in Gaza have been forcibly displaced from their homes since October 2023**. Displacements continue occurring daily as Israel continues to issue “evacuation orders”, doing so repeatedly for some areas such as now again in Khan Younis and Rafah, with **some families reporting to be displaced 8-10 times in desperate search of safety that is nowhere to be found**.

These families have been **severely traumatized by constant displacements and terrorized by the unrelenting Israeli attacks and the massacres** being perpetrated all around them. They are **exhausted, afraid, hungry and dehydrated** as Israel continues to use starvation and dehydration as weapons of war, persisting with its **obstruction of humanitarian access** and the delivery of desperately-needed aid.

**Nearly the entire population of Gaza has now been displaced**, including those that had been ordered by Israel to leave the north and had sought shelter in Rafah and on hospital grounds across Gaza. The majority of people have been **pushed into smaller and smaller areas with no humanitarian supplies and no civilian infrastructure** – no homes, no food, no safe drinking water, no fuel, no sanitation.

**Over a half a million people** have now been pushed into the so-called “humanitarian zone” in the sandy area of Al-Mawasi **crammed into makeshift tents in the scorching heat and with literally nowhere else to go other than the sea** and exposed not only to the elements but to Israeli bombardments by air, land and sea. The remainder of the population have sought refuge in the few homes and government buildings that remain standing and UNRWA shelters, which also continue to come under attack by IOF, including **just days ago in another strike on an UNRWA school in the Nuseirat refugee camp** in which 16 civilians were killed and 50 others were injured, including children and women.

**The level of human suffering and indignities are beyond description and beyond comprehension**. It is unconscionable that this wanton killing and destruction has carried on for 9 months with no end in sight.

When will the international community act to uphold the rule of law? When will the Security Council act on its solemn Charter mandate to maintain international peace and security and its **pledges to protect civilians in armed conflict, including children, women, humanitarian personnel and journalists, all of whom are under constant attack in Occupied Palestine**? When will the perpetrators of these horrific crimes against the Palestinian people be held accountable? **When will there be justice for the victims?**

**Left undeterred, it is obvious that Israel will continue to wreak human and physical devastation across Occupied Palestine**. This is painfully clear from the **continual vows of the Prime Minister and his far-right government coalition to exact only more death and destruction** and vows to proceed with their plans to

**ethnically cleanse, colonize and annex our land**, including recently-revealed plans for the **largest seizure of Palestinian land** – another 12.7 square kilometers in the Jordan Valley – in over 30 years.

In fact, the **extremist settler Finance Minister brags that land confiscations by Israel in 2024 have exceeded prior years “tenfold”** and that *“this is something that will change the map dramatically”*, following previous declarations that his *“life’s mission is to thwart the establishment of a Palestinian State”* and his **constant incitement and collusion with settler terror**, including pogroms against Palestinian civilians.

This is not a secret, this is **official Israeli government policy**, reflected every day in the words and actions of its **politicians and military commanders**, who continue to **threaten more war against the Palestinian people and also against neighboring countries, primarily Lebanon**, boasting like thugs that they will “wipe out” areas and “turn them to ruins” and acting like a rogue State.

Again, all of this is being perpetrated by Israel in full view and total contempt of the international community that has **long demanded an end to these illegal actions, including Israeli settlements activities across the Palestinian territory it has occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem**. And, yet, no action is being taken to stop crimes, including the **blatant acquisition of territory by force** in violation of one of the cardinal principles of the UN Charter.

The international community cannot remain paralyzed in the face of the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people. As we tragically mark 9 months – and inconceivably enter the 10<sup>th</sup> month – of Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza, the Palestinian leadership solemnly and urgently calls again on the international community to act now to ensure and enforce a ceasefire and save the millions of human lives at risk.

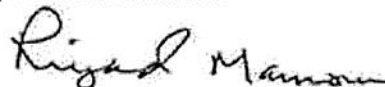
We appeal to the Security Council, General Assembly, Human Rights Council, ICJ, ICC and all States to rise to their responsibilities and obligations to act to stop these atrocities, protect the Palestinian people and restore humanity and the prospect for a just peace in line with international law and the relevant UN resolutions.

The international community cannot continue allowing Israel to trample international law and to destroy the international legal order without consequences. The international community cannot continue forsaking the Palestinian people and the permanent responsibility towards them until a just solution is realized for this grave, historic injustice. It is time to act. **There must be an end to this genocide and an end to this illegal colonial Israeli occupation and apartheid regime. Only then can peace and security ever be realized.**

This letter is in follow-up to our **841** 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 28 June 2024 (A/ES-10/\_-S/2024/\_ ) 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 circulated to the Security Council members for their valuable consideration and distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Dr. Riyadh Mansour  
Minister, Permanent Observer