

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



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Ref. SGC.58/23

23 February 2023

Excellency,

The Palestinian people are again today grieving, grieving the loss of a child, of youth, of elders, grieving the continued devastation of families, grieving from the oppression and trauma that continues to be inflicted by a colonial occupier and apartheid regime that is unrelenting in its dehumanization, aggression and terror against our people.

Today, the civilian population in Nablus was once again targeted by this campaign of terror as Israeli occupying forces (IOF) descended on the city in a widescale violent military raid that resulted in the **massacre of another ten (10) Palestinians, including a child, and the injury of at least 102 civilians**. Of those wounded in this Israeli attack, six (6) are now hospitalized in critical condition struggling for their lives. The Palestinians killed by the IOF today were:

Mohammed Farid Shaaban, age 16

Adnan Sabe' Baara, age 72

Abdelhady Abdelaziz Ashkar, age 61

Mohammed Khaled Anabousi, age 25

Tamer Nimer Ahmed Minawi, age 33

Musab Munir Mohammed Aweis, age 26

Hussam Bassam Isleem, age 24

Mohammed Abdelfattah Abdelghani, age 23

Walid Riyad Hussein Dakhil, age 23

Jamil Abdelwahab Qaneer, age 23

Moreover, IOF deliberately, as has been the occupation's longstanding illegal practice, **prevented medical personnel and ambulances from reaching the victims** of the Israeli attack, undermining the efforts to treat the wounded and save lives, in grave breach of international humanitarian law.

The turmoil and destruction caused by this Israeli assault has **amplified anger and fears not only in Nablus, but throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**. It serves as yet another indication of the occupying Power's ruthless intentions towards the Palestinian people and its absolute disregard for their lives and most fundamental human rights, which it persists in grossly violating with **total impunity as it continues to evade accountability**.

We must therefore once again alert the international community, particularly the Security Council, to the **dangerously rising tensions on the ground as Israel, the occupying Power, insists on provoking an escalation and explosion that risks spiraling out of control**. We must also once again make **our standing call for protection to the Palestinian people**, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and as called for in numerous United Nations resolutions, including **Security Council resolution 904 (1994)**, in the **2018 report to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General** on protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and just **two days ago in Presidential Statement adopted by the Security Council** on 20 February 2023.

In this regard, we underscore that in its most recent Presidential Statement, the Security Council emphasized, *inter alia*, **"the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians"**, and called for **"full respect for international humanitarian law, including the protection of the civilian population"**, and called also for **"facilitating access of humanitarian workers to populations in need"**, and reiterated **"the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and their protection"**.

H.E. Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
The President of the Security Council
The United Nations
New York

The Palestinian people live in fear for the safety and lives of their families, of their children, of their future as this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime continues its campaign of aggressions and ethnic cleansing.

The Palestinian people need, and deserve, and are entitled to, international protection in accordance with international law. International humanitarian law is intended for the protection of civilian persons in time of war and must not just be referenced or admired, but concretely upheld, respected and implemented to protect human lives from the scourge of war, including foreign occupation.

Yet, in the absence of protection, 61 Palestinians have been killed, including 13 children, since the start of 2023, following the pattern of killing and destruction perpetrated by Israel in 2022 and the years preceding.

Those killed include **a Palestinian boy, Muntaser al-Shawwa, age 16, who died yesterday of wounds sustained two weeks ago in an IOF military raid on the Balata refugee camp north of Nablus. Young Muntaser was standing on the roadside during the raid when he was shot by an Israeli sniper whose bullet struck him in the head, yet another reflection of Israel's longstanding shoot-to-kill policy against Palestinian civilians.**

The victims also include the **Harun Abu Aram, age 26, who died after suffering paralyzed for two (2) years after being shot point blank in the neck by an Israeli soldier. What was Harun's crime? Trying to stop the IOF that had raided the Masafer Yatta area from seizing an electric generator in an ongoing attempt to deprive the Palestinian civilian population there even of the basics of a safe, secure, dignified life in their own homeland.** Harun died in a cave, where his family was forced to live after Israel demolished the family's home in 2020, not even allowing the family to retrieve their meager belongings, and has continued to prevent them from building a home on their privately-owned land as it continues its blatant campaign of forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, we are compelled to recall the Secretary-General's report on Children and Armed Conflict (A/76/871 S/2022/493) and his affirmation that should the 2022 pattern of Israel's violation of child rights continue, that Israel should be listed. **We call for that listing as Israel proves itself over and over as a serial violator of the rights of Palestinian children, killing, injuring, maiming, arresting, detaining, forcibly displacing, traumatizing and terrorizing them without a single consequence for its crimes.**

It is time to ensure international protection to Palestinian children and the Palestinian people as a whole. It is time to end the massacres, end the ethnic cleansing, end the colonization and annexation, end this illegal, abhorrent occupation and apartheid regime. It is time for accountability, as required by international law. Israel, the occupying Power, cannot remain the exception, absolved of its obligation to abide by international law.

We therefore **call once again on the international community, in particular the Security Council, to act, in line with the obligations under the Charter** and all other relevant provisions of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law and including all relevant United Nations resolutions. **It is time for the implementation of those relevant resolutions and to give meaning to international law to protect civilian lives and to uphold the longstanding responsibilities of the international community towards the Palestine question and the attainment of justice.**

This letter is in follow-up to our **779 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 13 February 2023 (A/ES-10/927-S/2023/___) 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 must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter made available to the members of the Security Council for their immediate, valuable consideration and also distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

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



Dr. Riyadh Mansour
Minister, Permanent Observer