

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



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

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8 September 2026

Excellency,

Since my last letter to the Security Council, Israeli officials have pressed on with their genocidal policies and illegal plans aimed at the physical removal of the Palestinian people from their land and the erasure of Palestine. As evidenced across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, Israel's decades-long ethnic cleansing of Palestine has reached its height through the commission of genocide and the acceleration of its crimes.

Israel is not only undermining Palestinian existence but is threatening the complete destruction of the Palestinian people. This is manifested as the goal of the State, announced by its executive, embraced by its officials, advanced by its legislative, legalized by its judiciary, and executed by its military and settler militias.

This letter outlines the latest statements, policy decisions, and measures announced by Israeli officials, who are proudly declaring their ethnic cleansing plan, enunciating their decades-long policy to remove the Palestinian people from their land, and rapidly and actively implementing their crimes on the ground:

On 2 September 2026, Israel's Minister of Defense, Israel Katz, announced that, *"There is no real solution for Gaza in the end without migration... Israel is organized and prepared to get them out [the Palestinian people]— by sea, by air, by every way possible...The plan hasn't been cancelled; it is being discussed all the time, even now, and I think there is no other solution for everyone's good."*

In the same interview, and in a remarkable plain admission of his crimes, he boasted, *"today 70% of Gaza's territory is a desert thanks to what the Israeli army has done; there are no longer any inhabitants or houses there...We have also reoccupied the refugee camps in the West Bank and expelled 40,000 Palestinians."*

Denying the rampant Israeli settler terrorism, Katz declared that *"there is no Jewish terror. I have cancelled that term. Terrorism is committed by those who act against the State of Israel."*

Katz's plan to remove the Palestinian people is not limited to the Gaza Strip, it also includes the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Katz is also threatening to collapse of the Palestinian Authority, whose role is essential in preserving Palestinian presence in the land.

On 7 September 2026, he declared that *"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have instructed the [military] to prepare for the opening of a full-scale war"* in the West Bank, with *"the evacuation of residents from cities and villages... exactly as we did in the security zones in Gaza."* Katz further announced *"targeted eliminations"* of senior officials of the Palestinian Authority.

Also on 2 September 2026, Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, staged a visit to a military post in Gaza and filmed himself on top of the ruins saying, *"We are not withdrawing. We are staying on this line. We control 60% of the Strip. And there is still more to come."*

On the same day, Netanyahu visited a religious school Sderot, where he oversaw, nodded along, and smiled as tens of young settlers chanted, *"And we will take vengeance, one eye for the two eyes of Palestine, may its name be erased."*

At a press conference a week prior, Netanyahu addressed the settlers and gloated *"104 settlements that we established and settled together and 160 farms"* and promised that *"there is more to come."*

**H.E. Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont
The President of the Security Council of the United Nations**

On 3 September 2026, following the announcement by Israel Katz that *“there is no real solution for Gaza in the end without migration,”* Israel’s Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, unveiled a plan titled “Disengagement 710.” A plan that, as professed by him, *“will encourage the voluntary migration of 1.86 million Gazans within seven years,”* adding that *“we stopped dealing with the problem. We decided to solve it.”* The “problem” being the existence of the Palestinian people on their land.

In a press conference outlining Israel’s plan for the systematic forced transfer of the Palestinian people aimed at annihilating their presence in their own homeland, Ben-Gvir announced that, *“We must take advantage of this historic opportunity to create a historic solution. Since the start of the war, I’ve been standing, shouting, and demanding the implementation of the idea of encouraging immigration from Gaza.”*

He explained that the plan is to remove 250,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip in the first year, followed by one million in three years, and *“within seven years we can reach almost a 1.9 million...it is possible. It is realistic. It is in our hands. It is within our ability.”*

Ben-Gvir also claimed that they conducted a survey of Israeli society and found that *“76% of Israeli society support encouraging immigration from Gaza”* and that he would demand *“a ministry in charge of emigration”* adding that his plan was *“the result of a year and a half of work and ... is concrete.”*

On 3 September 2026, and during an interview titled “Ben-Gvir on the Field: A personal interview with Paz Robinson,” a reporter asked Ben-Gvir *“What is a small dream do you have that you have not fulfilled yet?”*, he smiled and answered, *“To encourage people to leave Gaza — by buses, planes, convoys...it can solve the issue.”* On 6 September 2026, Ben-Gvir repeated on X, *“Encouraging voluntary migration is the real and only solution.”*

This comes just a few days after Ben-Gvir posted an AI video depicting starving Palestinian detainees in prison uniform being placed into a machine on an industrial conveyor belt, entering a slaughterhouse, overweight, and emerging emaciated and frail.

In the same week, Ben-Gvir posted a real video of himself humiliating Palestinian women detainees and yelling, *“The good conditions in the prisons are over...This is the current situation, and I am directly responsible for everything...I’m glad we lowered these conditions to the bare minimum.”*

Israeli soldiers are implementing Ben-Gvir’s policy of physical and psychological abuse and torture of Palestinian detainees through the practice, often repeated, of marking Palestinian detainees with numbers on their foreheads and other parts of their bodies.

Recently in Qabatiya, Israeli soldiers abducted a Palestinian man named Ahmad al Hathnawi and later released him with the number “44” written on his forehead. The Israeli occupying army admitted that it numbered Palestinian detainees and added that *“lessons have been learned.”* But what lessons were learned, when just weeks earlier, Israeli soldiers marked Palestinian women’s hands with numbers in Jenin. Then, the Israeli occupying army also issued a statement describing the crime of marking Palestinian with numbers as merely *“poor judgement.”*

Earlier this month, and despite international condemnations of the racist and discriminatory death penalty law, Ben-Gvir posted a video of the construction of a gallows complex where Palestinians will be hanged. The complex also includes viewing booths for Israelis who would like to watch. He ended the video with *“We are making history.”*

On the ground, Israel’s Minister of Finance, Bezalel Smotrich, is likewise actively implementing Israel’s goal of removal of the Palestinian people.

On 3 September 2026, he announced the inauguration of a new settlement near Bethlehem, “Ma’ale Arugot,” and described it as *“a strategic move that will prevent a continuous Palestinian terror sequence.”* Speaking to the settlers, Smotrich said that *“we want to bring a million settlers.”* In an interview the day after, Smotrich repeated the abhorrent lie that *“there is no such thing as a Palestinian people.”*

Similar to the threats by Katz against the Palestinian Authority, on 7 September 2026 at the so-called “The Jerusalem Conference”, Smotrich announced, *“I think the Palestinian Authority should be brought down... there will be no escape in the near future from a war in ‘Judea and Samaria’ [West Bank].”* Smotrich also threatened further atrocities by settler terrorists against the Palestinian people by declaring that *“[we] need to place weapons in our hands.”* He also declared that *“Oslo is null and void anyways. Area A [of the West Bank] is ours.”*

On 31 August 2026, Smotrich announced that *“70 dunams have been declared for the establishment of the new city of Mishmar Yehuda in Gush Etzion”* in Jerusalem, adding to over 28,640 dunams of Palestinian land already seized since December 2022, further fragmenting the territory of the State of Palestine.

Complementing the ethnic cleansing plans announced by Katz and Ben-Gvir, Smotrich also presented a plan to *“Judaize”* and *“transfer the settlement revolution from ‘Judea and Samaria’ [West Bank] to the Negev and Galilee.”* The plan is to steal more land and resources from the Palestinian people, to displace them, and replace them with *“an additional million Jews in the Negev and Galilee through the establishment of 40 new settlements and dozens of farms,”* as declared by him.

Israeli incitement and genocidal statements against the Palestinian people have also been peddled by religious figures. On 22 August 2026, Chief Rabbi David Yosef, Chief Rabbi of Israel, said that *“This mob that is not a people, that they call themselves a Palestinian people, but they are not a people. They never were a people, they are not a people, and they have no rights here. The rights are ours...”* adding that *“Gaza is the Land of Israel, Gaza is ours, Nablus is ours, Jenin is ours, all of them are ours... May the Holy One, blessed be He, destroy all of Gaza... and we will return there”* which was followed by collective *“Amen”* from the crowd.

It is this unchecked systematic and institutionalized demonization and dehumanization of the Palestinian people that laid the stage for the genocide of the Palestinian people and the ethnic cleansing of Palestine, in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip.

Throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel, the occupying Power, and for decades has incrementally constructed an infrastructure of ethnic cleansing and forced dispossession and displacement to implement these declared ethnic cleansing plans. And while the list of Israeli crimes in the West Bank since the last letter is staggering and too extensive to recount here, it is necessary to highlight the ongoing erasure of Palestinian villages and communities by Israeli occupying forces and settler terrorists.

Just over the past week, Israeli forces demolished and erased the village of Khirbet al-Tabban, within Masafer Yatta, in South Hebron Hills, displacing over 70 people. Khirbet al-Tabban is now added to the over 47 Palestinian communities that have been displaced and erased from the map since October 2023.

On the same day, while the Israeli president was giving an interview on CNN claiming that Israel is making a *“major effort”* to curb settler violence, Israeli settlers and soldiers attacked the village of Al-Mughayyir and killed two children, Omar al-Nassan, 17 years-old, and Khalil Abu Alia, 16 years-old. Since December 2024, Israeli settlers and soldiers have killed 9 Palestinians in Al-Mughayyir village alone, including 5 children.

According to UN OHCHR, *“surrounded by 8 settler outposts, Al Mughayyir has been a target for incessant settler and state violence to force Palestinian residents to leave. This included more than 50 settler attacks in 2026 alone... with an average of 7 attacks per month, with the acquiescence, support, and participation of Israeli forces.”*

The Chairman of the Al-Mughayyir Village Council added that, *“What remains for the people of Al-Mughayyir is about 900 dunams out of the original 43,000 dunams; after the settlers took control of vast areas of the village’s lands.”*

In my previous letters, I brought to your attention Israel’s ethnic cleansing and destruction of Palestinian refugee camps throughout the West Bank, particularly in Jenin and Nablus. To date, over 40,000 Palestinians have been displaced and prevented from returning to their homes in the camps.

Documenting Israel’s ethnic cleansing of these camps, UN OHCHR issued a report on 4 September 2026 titled, *“Destruction of Palestinian refugee camps in northern West Bank.”* UN OHCHR determined that *“Israeli military, police and other forces ...killed civilians, destroyed hundreds of homes, damaged roads and other infrastructure, cut off water and electricity and barred humanitarian access into the Jenin, Nur Shams and Tulkarm refugee camps, and went door to door forcing residents to leave.”*

Furthermore, UN OHCHR revealed that the Palestinian families displaced *“were told by Israeli officers there would be no more refugee camps and that they should all go to Jordan.”* In response, the UN Human Rights Commissioner concluded that the aim of Israel’s “operation” is to *“to expel as many Palestinians as possible and to make way for more illegal Israeli settlements.”*

In the Gaza Strip, Israel’s infrastructure of ethnic cleansing is reinforced by constant physical violence and systemic deprivation as manifested in its blockade, denial of the necessities of life, killing, engineered famine and starvation, and disease. 2.3 million people, including at least 1 million children, are trapped in less than a third of the size of the Gaza Strip, being bombed, starved, killed and maimed, every single day.

1.9 million people remain displaced. Two-thirds of households in the Gaza Strip live in tents. Over half of these tents are in poor condition, without access to clean water and sanitation, electricity, health care, or other necessities. Shelter partners have over 30,000 tents currently waiting at the corridor, deliberately denied entry by Israel, even though 30,000 is just a fraction of the 130,000 required to prepare to shelter families before winter cold and flooding arrive, yet again.

Israel continues to use humanitarian aid as an instrument of displacement and ethnic cleansing. 2.3 million people depend on humanitarian assistance supplied at the whims of Israel’s political calculations. It is estimated that at least 1.4 million people, or around two-thirds of the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip, are currently experiencing crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity.

The killing has also not stopped. In just the week between 28 August and 7 September, over 30 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli attacks. Of those killed, 8 years old Wafaa Akila and her father Yousef, whose car were targeted as he was driving Wafaa to school, on what was supposed to be her first day of school. Wafaa is the latest of over 270 children killed by Israel since the announcement of the ceasefire.

UN OHCHR concluded that *“almost a year since a ceasefire was announced and nowhere and nobody in Gaza is safe.”* Indeed, instead of implementing the ceasefire, Israel continues to violate its obligations, in a naked defiance of the international community, and to obstruct the efforts of world leaders to achieve regional peace and security, including through the Comprehensive Peace Plan, and the New York Declaration, and their key principles of: no occupation, no annexation, no displacement.

Israel is pursuing all three. It is consolidating its unlawful occupation, annexing Palestinian land, and displacing the Palestinian people. As Israel continues to undermine international peace efforts, undeterred, Israeli officials are confident of the impunity they have long enjoyed. They are vaunting their crimes to the world as righteous accomplishments, as *“historic opportunity”, “the real and only solution”,* or a moral duty, a divine right, to be praised and celebrated, rather than to be condemned, stopped, and prosecuted. In parallel, Israel has stripped the Palestinian people of their rights, dispossessed them of their land, their property, their resources, and denied them all and any means of survival, rendering them defenseless, and giving them two choices: death or removal.

Neither of these choices is acceptable.

This is the time for the international community, including the Security Council, and Member States of the UN, to take resolute measure and decisive action to stop the most organized, methodic, and broadcasted ethnic cleansing campaign in modern history, to halt Israel’s crimes, dismantle its settlement enterprise, end its illegal occupation, ensure accountability, and uphold the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence. In this regard, we call on the Security Council and the General Assembly to implement their resolutions on the question of Palestine.

In this context, the State of Palestine welcomes the measures announced by the UK, France, and Canada to ban settlement products and impose wider sanctions on the settlement enterprise, entities, and individuals who finance, facilitate, and contribute to this war crime. Joined by Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Norway and Belgium, these measures mark a significant and essential step towards translating States’ obligations under the UN Charter, UN resolutions, and ICJ rulings, into concrete action against Israel’s settlement enterprise, Israel’s illegal occupation, and Israel’s crimes, which undermine the two-State solution.

We also welcome the decision by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Poland, Portugal, and Sweden to take similar national measures and support European restrictions on trade with settlements. We call on these States to swiftly turn these positions into binding measures, including full and complete ban on settlement products and impose sanctions on the settlement enterprise, entities and individuals.

These necessary measures are just the beginning. States must lay the ground for comprehensive measures to prevent trade, investment, and other economic activities that sustain or benefit Israel's illegal occupation and settlement enterprise and contribute to Israel's ethnic cleansing campaign. These measures include, abstaining from treaty relations concerning the Palestinian territory; abstaining from economic or trade dealings concerning the Palestinian territory; abstaining from establishing and maintaining diplomatic missions in Jerusalem; ceasing the provisions or transfer of arms, munitions, or related equipment that may be used in the Palestinian territory; and implementing sanctions, including travel bans & asset freeze.

Such measures are consistent with and in respect of ICJ Advisory Opinion regarding the illegality of the Israeli occupation and relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 2334(2016) regarding the illegality of the settlements, both of which affirmed the legal obligations of all States to ensure their dealings do not facilitate or support Israel's illegal occupation and settlement enterprise.

States also have an obligation to pursue and ensure accountability for Israel's crimes, including for Israeli officials responsible for settlement enterprise. States must employ all means available to them to prevent the commission of crimes; ensuring individuals and corporations in their territories and within their jurisdiction are not involved, or aiding or assisting, in the commission of crimes; investigate and prosecute those who may be implicated in these crimes; and support accountability processes before international courts.

In this regard, the State of Palestine also welcomes the UK's recognition that Israel's occupation is illegal, in line with the ICJ Advisory Opinion regarding the illegality of the Israeli occupation, and that there is ethnic cleansing in parts of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The UK also declared its support for international courts and accountability efforts, including the ICJ genocide case brought by *South Africa against Israel*. Recognizing and naming the reality on the ground is necessary for the enactment and implementation of any measure taken by States to halt Israel's crimes.

Action, not statements, will help the Palestinian people to survive Israel's ethnic cleansing campaign and to finally realize their inalienable rights, including the self-determination and independence that they have been denied for far too long, and to salvage what prospects remain for justice and peace. We expect the Security Council and the wider international community to shoulder their responsibility and build on these measures, expand them, and reinforce them.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 891 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 21 August 2026 (A/ES-10/1060-S/2026/453), constitute a basic record of the crimes being 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 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 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Riyad Mansour". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Riyad" and the last name "Mansour" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Riyadh Mansour
Minister, Permanent Observer