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Identical letters dated 24 October 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Today, around midnight (Palestine time), Israeli occupying forces once again entered the area under the full control of the Palestinian Authority and seized the village of Beit Reema to the north of the city of Ramallah, using tanks, armoured personnel carriers, helicopter gunships and bulldozers. The Israeli forces killed a number of Palestinians, injured many others, destroyed some homes and abducted several individuals. The exact numbers of those killed, injured and abducted remains unclear at this time because the Israeli occupying forces have cordoned off the village, even preventing ambulances from coming in to treat the victims of this deadly night assault. This additional Israeli war crime and act of State terrorism has been committed despite all the calls for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the areas that it has recently reoccupied.

In this regard, as the illegal Israeli seizure and partial reoccupation of six Palestinian cities in the West Bank continues, the Israeli occupying forces continue to carry out the bloody military campaign against the Palestinian people, causing more deaths and injures and the spread of more terror and fear throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. Today, Israeli occupying forces pushed deeper into the city of Tulkarem, killing three Palestinians with tank fire. A fourth Palestinian man was killed in Abu Dis near Jerusalem and a fifth Palestinian was killed in Bethlehem.

Further, on Monday, 22 October 2001, Israel, the occupying Power, committed yet another assassination of a Palestinian man. In that attack, Mr. Ayman Abu Al-Halaweh was killed by a car bomb near the town of Nablus. On that same day, the occupying forces killed two other Palestinian civilians. Three Palestinian men were also killed by Israeli tank fire yesterday, 23 October, in the city of Tulkarem.

This continuous and widespread Israeli military assault against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority, including the Israeli military reoccupation of several Palestinian towns and cities, has further inflamed the already tense, unstable and grave situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. These serious developments in Israel's bloody military campaign have drastically undermined recent efforts aimed at bringing a halt to the violence and deterioration of the situation on the ground and at resuming negotiations between the two sides.

The situation should be a matter of great concern for the international community, and all efforts must be made to ensure the full and immediate withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces from areas reoccupied and to bring an end to the Israeli military campaign being waged against the Palestinian people. The Security Council has a clear responsibility in this regard under the Charter of the United Nations, and we believe it must act immediately.

I write this letter to you in follow-up of our previous 75 letters regarding the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 September 2000 to 22 October 2001 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1215; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES/10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131 A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/504; A/ES-100/85-S/2001/504; A/ES-100/85-S/2001/504; A/ES-100/85-S/2000; A/ES-1000; A/ES-100/85-S/2000; A/ES-1000 S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/110-S/2001/855; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941; A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971; A/ES-10/118-S/2001/989; and A/ES-10/119-S/2001/991). Since my letter to you on 22 October 2001, many more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces. As of yesterday, the killing of the 6 Palestinians mentioned above raised the total number of Palestinian martyrs to 713 people. That number is sadly dramatically higher today as a result of the Israeli assaults on Beit Rima, Tulkarem, Abu Dis and Bethlehem. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser Al-Kidwa Ambassador Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 24 October 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem ^a (Monday, 22 October 2001 and Tuesday, 23 October 2001)

Monday, 22 October 2001

- 1. Nidal Taleb Alyan
- 2. Yussef Al-Shalaby
- 3. Ayman Adnan Abu Al-Halaweh
- Tuesday, 23 October 2001
- 1. Talat Atwa Jabir
- 2. Bader Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sha'er
- 3. Nasser Hani Kar'an

^a The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 713.