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Identical letters dated 25 November 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On Friday, 22 November, Israel, the occupying Power, committed yet another war crime in its military campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Israeli occupying forces killed a United Nations international civil servant inside a clearly demarcated United Nations compound in the Jenin refugee camp. The slain man was Mr. Iain Hook, a British national, who was recently hired by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to direct the Jenin refugee camp reconstruction project following the destruction wrought by the Israeli occupying forces in April of this year. Mr. Hook was killed by a shot to the back while trying to evacuate employees from the compound, while at the same time making phone contacts with the Israeli authorities to facilitate a safe evacuation.

Initially, Israeli officials denied that Israeli soldiers had shot Mr. Hook, later reverting to the same pattern of distortion and deception, falsely claiming that militants had been firing at the soldiers from inside the compound and also stating that they had fired when soldiers mistook Mr. Hook's cellular phone to be a gun. In addition, as asserted by UNRWA officials, the occupying forces also obstructed emergency help from reaching Mr. Hook, who died prior to his arrival at hospital. Moreover, also on the same day in the Jenin refugee camp, the occupying forces shot and injured an international volunteer, Ms. Caiohme Butterly, an Irish national, and killed an 11-year-old Palestinian boy, Mohammed Musleh Ibrahim Bellalo.

What happened in the Jenin refugee camp reflects a recurrent pattern of criminal actions by the soldiers of the occupying Power, including indiscriminate shooting and excessive use of force against civilians, obstruction of access of medical personnel and humanitarian assistance and wanton destruction. Moreover, it represents yet another instance in which the occupying forces have behaved in a manner showing complete disregard for the immunity of United Nations personnel and facilities by attacking a United Nations facility and harassing, and even killing, United Nations personnel. In fact, it is clear that Israeli soldiers have virtually instituted a culture of killing with impunity under generals who are implicated in war crimes against the Palestinian people, including General Shaul Mofaz and General Moshe Ya'; alon. In this regard, we reiterate once more our call upon the international community to take serious and concrete measures both to express condemnation of such illegal Israeli policies and practices and to compel Israel to cease them immediately.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, continues with its military campaign of war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people throughout other areas of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Late last week, the Israeli occupying forces again reoccupied the city of Bethlehem. The occupying forces imposed a round-the-clock curfew on the city's inhabitants, obstructed access to the Church of the Nativity and detained dozens of Palestinians. In the city of Nablus, crimes also continue to be committed by the occupying forces, who today killed an 8-year-old Palestinian boy, Jihad Al-Faqeeh, in addition to injuring several others. Moreover, the occupying forces continue to raid other Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, including Jenin, Qalqilya, Al-Khalil and the Kalandia refugee camp, abducting and detaining dozens of Palestinians during these raids as well as causing damage and destruction to homes and property.

In follow-up to my previous 145 letters to you regarding this continuing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 September 2000 to 20 November 2002 (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/2000/1206, A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247, A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7, A/ES-10/55-S/2001/32, A/ES-10/66-S/2001/209, A/ES-10/65-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/2001/18 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/2001/29 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/2001/41 A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432, A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447, A/ES-10/82-S/2001/63, A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471, A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479, A/ES-10/85-S/2001/48 A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496, A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504, A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508, A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544, A/ES-10/90-S/2001/479, A/ES-10/91-S/2001/48 A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463, A/ES-10/89-S/2001/471, A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479, A/ES-10/85-S/2001/48 A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496, A/ES-10/87-S/2001/507, A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508, A/ES-10/90-S/2001/544, A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586, A/ES-10/91-S/2001/600 A/ES-10/92-S/2001/669, A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686, A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697, A/ES-10/97-S/2001/70

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

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

Annex to the identical letters dated 25 November 2002 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 (Wednesday, 20 November, to Monday, 25 November 2002)

Wednesday, 20 November 2002

- 1. Hassan Fathi Eissa
- 2. Iyad Ziydan
- 3. Hazem Ahmed Mohammed Taqatqa
- Friday, 22 November 2002
- 1. Shahed Basim Abdellatif Abu Zaytoun (20 days old)
- 2. Mohammed Muselh Ibrahim Bellalo (11 years old)
- 3. Fahmi Abu Hussein

4. Abdullah Mansi Qdeih
Saturday, 23 November 2002
Abdullah Arafat Al-Natsheh (15 years old, died from wounds sustained on 20 November)
Sunday, 24 November 2002
Ahmed Ashtiyeh
Monday, 25 November 2002
Jihad Al-Faqeeh (8 years old)

^a The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 1,947.