



Security Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2024

Original: English

Implementation of Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the thirty-second quarterly report on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), covering the period from 12 September to 6 December 2024.

II. Settlement activities

2. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, had no legal validity and constituted a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. The Council reiterated its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in that regard. No such steps were taken during the reporting period, as settlement activities continued.

3. On 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice rendered its advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Among its findings, the Court reaffirmed that “the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the régime associated with them, have been established and are being maintained in violation of international law”; and, among other things, concluded that it was of the opinion “that the State of Israel is under an obligation to cease immediately all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory”.¹

¹ In relation to the extension of Israeli law to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the International Court of Justice considered that Israel had “exercised its regulatory authority as an occupying Power in a manner that is inconsistent with the rule reflected in Article 43 of the Hague Regulations and Article 64 of the Fourth Geneva Convention”; furthermore, in relation specifically to planning policy, it concluded that “Israel’s planning policy in relation to the issuance of building permits, and in particular its practice of property demolition for lack of a building permit, which treats Palestinians differently from settlers without justification, amounts to prohibited discrimination [in violation of Articles 2, paragraph 1, and 26 of the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights], Article 2, paragraph 2, of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights], and Article 2 of [the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination]]”.



4. During the reporting period, the Israeli planning authorities advanced or approved approximately 540 housing units in the occupied West Bank settlements of Immanuel, Alon Shvut, Givat Ze'ev, Karnei Shomron and Negohot.

5. On 14 October, the Israeli Ministry of Housing published a tender for approximately 290 housing units in the settlement of Ramat Shlomo in occupied East Jerusalem.

6. On several occasions during the reporting period, Israeli security forces demolished structures, which are illegal under Israeli law, in settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank, including on 11 November in the Oz Zion outpost and 4 December in the Or Yosef outpost, on some occasions accompanied by clashes between Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers.

7. Demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures continued across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, throughout the reporting period. Israeli authorities, citing the lack of Israeli-issued building permits, which remain almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain, demolished, seized or forced people to demolish 292 structures, including 34 structures that were demolished by their owners, after they received demolition orders, in order to avoid heavy Israeli demolition fees. Another 52 structures were demolished, seized or destroyed during Israeli security operations or as punitive measures. Of the structures that were demolished or seized, 22 had been funded by international donors. The demolition of those structures resulted in the displacement of 618 persons, including 248 children.

8. In one incident, on 5 November, nine Palestinian residences, housing 42 people, including 19 children, were demolished by the Israeli authorities in the Al-Bustan neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem, citing a lack of Israeli-issued building permits. The demolition could facilitate Israeli plans to connect the area to the nearby "City of David" tourist attraction in occupied East Jerusalem.

III. Violence against civilians, including acts of terror

9. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council called for immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation and destruction, called for accountability in that regard and called for compliance with obligations under international law for the strengthening of ongoing efforts to combat terrorism, including through existing security coordination, and to clearly condemn all acts of terrorism.

10. The reporting period was marked by continued hostilities between Israel and Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza. Israel continued to conduct strikes from air, land and sea, resulting in thousands of Palestinian casualties, the massive displacement of civilians and widespread destruction, including of civilian infrastructure, which worsened the already appalling conditions for civilians in Gaza. Israeli military evacuation orders covered approximately 80 per cent of the Gaza Strip during the reporting period. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups continued to hold hostages in horrific conditions (with reports of severe maltreatment), launch attacks at Israeli forces and fire rockets and other projectiles indiscriminately towards Israel. Israel states that Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups continued to place fighters and military equipment among and underneath densely populated civilian areas.

11. According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, from 12 September to 6 December at least 3,494 Palestinians were killed and at least 10,709 were injured in the Gaza Strip. This brings the total reported by the Ministry of Health to more than 44,612 Palestinians killed since 7 October 2023, a majority of whom were reportedly women and children.

12. According to Israeli sources, during the same period 45 Israelis were killed, including 1 woman, all of whom were members of the security forces, in attacks in Gaza, and 2 Israelis were injured in Israel in attacks originating from Gaza. Israeli sources reported that more than 1,720 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in attacks in or originating from Gaza, including at least 310 women and 57 children, and at least 767 members of the security forces, since 7 October 2023. According to Israeli sources, 100 hostages, including 13 women and 2 children, are still being held captive by Palestinian armed groups in Gaza. A total of 251 persons were abducted from Israel on 7 October 2023.

13. During the reporting period, at least 31 United Nations personnel were killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of United Nations personnel killed since 7 October 2023 to 255.

14. The intensity of hostilities and of Israel Defense Forces strikes in Gaza during the reporting period, including numerous mass casualty incidents, precludes detailing them all, but several significant incidents are reported below.

15. Repeated attacks and airstrikes in densely populated areas, including 65 schools, continued, resulting in the reported deaths of hundreds of internally displaced persons sheltering in those locations. Between 21 and 23 September, at least 33 Palestinians were reportedly killed, including at least 5 women and 14 children, when two schools were targeted in Gaza City and one school was targeted in Nuseirat camp, Deir al-Balah, all three of which were being used as shelters. The Israel Defense Forces stated that it had conducted a targeted airstrike on Hamas operatives in the schools, including a command centre in the school compound in Deir al-Balah. On 10 October, 28 Palestinians were killed, including, reportedly, at least 6 women and 2 children, and 54 were injured in an Israeli air strike impacting a school west of Deir al-Balah. The Israel Defense Forces stated that it had conducted the strike because of the alleged presence of armed Palestinians operating a “command and control centre” inside the school. Late in the evening of 13 October, Israel Defense Forces fired a number of shells towards a school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) north of Nuseirat camp, reportedly killing 22 Palestinians, including at least 2 women and 5 children.

16. Israeli military operations have intensified in northern Gaza since 6 October, with intense fighting, the siege of northern Gaza, the widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure, the forced displacement of most of the population of North Gaza Governorate and strikes on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and residential buildings, resulting in high numbers of civilian casualties. Only 65,000 to 75,000 people are estimated to remain in northern Gaza, following the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of residents southward, with most remaining in Gaza City. Residents of northern Gaza who were displaced to central and southern Gaza since the first Israel Defense Forces evacuation order on 13 October 2023 are still prohibited from returning to northern Gaza due to Israel Defense Forces restrictions and checkpoints, including military infrastructure along the Israel Defense Forces-controlled Netzarim corridor that cuts Gaza in two.

17. On 11 October, 22 Palestinians were killed and 90 others injured in an Israeli strike near a mosque in Jabaliya. On 13 October, 17 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli strike on a tented camp for displaced people next to the al-Yemen al-Saeed Hospital. The Israel Defense Forces stated that they “struck terrorists operating within a command-and-control centre embedded in an area in Jabaliya that previously served as a medical compound”. The following day, Israel Defense Forces artillery shells hit in and around an UNRWA food distribution centre in Jabaliya, killing at least 10 and injuring 40 Palestinians. Several residential buildings in Beit Lahya were struck by the Israel Defense Forces, including on 29 October, reportedly killing at least 93

displaced people, including at least 25 children, and on 4 and 5 November, killing at least 40 Palestinians, including 13 children. In Jabaliya, an Israel Defense Forces strike on a building on 7 November killed between 25 and 30 Palestinians. At least 24 Palestinians, including 14 children and 5 women, were reportedly killed as a result of an Israel Defense Forces strike on a residential building on 10 November.

18. Since late October, Israeli security forces operations have also intensified in Nuseirat camp, with ground operations to the north and airstrikes reported. On 31 October, at least 26 Palestinians, including 4 children and 4 women, were reportedly killed in Israel Defense Forces strikes on two houses. The second house was reportedly struck when medical and rescue crews gathered, resulting in the injury of at least 30 people, including a medic and 2 journalists. The following day, 12 Palestinians were reportedly killed, and dozens injured, in an Israel Defense Forces strike at the entrance of a school hosting internally displaced persons. On 10 and 11 November, at least 14 Palestinians, including 4 children and 3 women, were killed in additional strikes by the Israel Defense Forces.

19. In Khan Younis, on 13 November, four separate Israel Defense Forces airstrikes in the Al-Mawasi area resulted in at least 10 Palestinian fatalities, as missiles were fired towards a gas distribution point, a house and a tent. The Israel Defense Forces said the strikes were targeting a rocket launcher used by Palestinian armed groups and reported secondary explosions.

20. Attacks on humanitarian convoys and humanitarian actors continued during the reporting period. On 30 November, Israel Defense Forces airstrikes in the vicinity of a food distribution point in Khan Younis reportedly killed at least 12 Palestinians, including a Save the Children employee, and in a separate incident an Israel Defense Forces airstrike on a car killed three World Central Kitchen employees. The Israel Defense Forces said it was targeting a Palestinian involved in the attacks on 7 October 2023.

21. On 4 December, Israel Defense Forces struck tents sheltering displaced persons in Al-Mawasi in an attack which the Israel Defense Forces said was targeting Hamas commanders. The strike, together with secondary explosions, destroyed all 21 tents and reportedly killed at least 23 Palestinians, including at least 4 children and 2 women.

22. On 16 November, a United Nations convoy in Gaza comprising 109 trucks of food supplies was violently looted by armed Palestinians; 98 trucks were lost and the drivers were forced to unload aid at gunpoint. In 2024, United Nations trucks have been looted 75 times by armed Palestinians in Gaza, with 15 attacks occurring since 4 November. On 19 November, more than 20 people, said to be alleged looters of humanitarian aid, were reportedly killed by armed Palestinians said to be led by the Gaza Ministry of Interior.

23. Meanwhile, violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continued at an alarming rate in the context of operations, airstrikes, clashes and armed exchanges between Palestinians, including armed groups, and Israeli security forces and settlers, as well as attacks perpetrated by Palestinians against Israelis and violence and intimidation by settlers against Palestinians.²

² In its advisory opinion of 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice expressed the view that “Israel’s systematic failure to prevent or to punish attacks by settlers against the life or bodily integrity of Palestinians, as well as Israel’s excessive use of force against Palestinians, is inconsistent with its obligations” pursuant to article 46 of the Hague Regulations and article 27, paragraph 1, of the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as article 6, paragraph 1, and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

24. In total, in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 94 Palestinians, including 3 women and 12 children, were killed by Israeli security forces during operations, demonstrations, clashes, air strikes and other incidents during the reporting period. Of those, 34 Palestinians, including 1 woman and 3 children, were killed by airstrikes. In addition, one Palestinian was killed by an Israeli settler. A total of 860 Palestinians were injured, including 57 women and 222 children; of those, 334 were injured as a result of tear gas inhalation, 226 by live ammunition and 3 by airstrikes.

25. According to Israeli sources, during the same reporting period, a total of 8 Israelis, including 1 member of the security forces and 3 women, were killed in the occupied West Bank and Israel, and another 262 Israelis, including 2 children, were injured by Palestinians in shooting, ramming and stabbing attacks, armed exchanges and clashes, and in rock- and Molotov-cocktail-throwing and other incidents.

26. In the occupied West Bank, most of the Palestinians were killed by Israeli security forces in the context of Israeli operations, including those in Area A and those involving airstrikes, as well as during subsequent exchanges with armed Palestinians. On 19 September, Israeli security forces conducted a nine-hour operation in Qabatiya in Jenin Governorate, resulting in seven Palestinian fatalities. On 25 September, Israeli security forces killed a 34-year-old Palestinian woman who appeared to be a bystander during an operation in Anza, Jenin Governorate.

27. On 3 October, 18 Palestinians, including 4 women and 3 children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a residential building in Tulkarm camp. The Israeli military said they were targeting a top commander of Hamas in Tulkarm who was killed along with six other key operatives. This was the deadliest single incident in the occupied West Bank since the United Nations started systematically recording casualties in 2005.

28. On 9 October in Nablus city, undercover Israeli forces killed four Palestinians who they said had been involved in previous attacks against Israelis. On 10 October, an Israeli drone-fired missile killed two Palestinians in a vehicle during a six-hour operation in Nur Shams refugee camp, Tulkarm. The Israel Defense Forces said that the strike had targeted the head of Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the camp, as well as another operative of that group.

29. On 14 October, Israeli forces killed two Palestinians, including a 14-year-old boy, during a nine-hour operation in Jenin refugee camp. On 22 October, Israeli forces shot and killed an 11-year-old Palestinian boy who was throwing stones at the military jeeps as they were withdrawing from Nablus city. On 31 October, Israeli forces raided Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm, during which an airstrike killed two Palestinians, aged 19 and 20. The Israel Defense Forces said it had conducted an airstrike targeting armed individuals who had fired at Israeli forces. A 32-year-old Palestinian was also killed in his house in the camp, reportedly by a sniper. On 5 November, during four separate Israeli forces operations, two Palestinians were killed in the village of Ash-Shuhada, Jenin, two in Tammun, Tubas, and four during an 11-hour operation in Qabatiya, Tulkarm. In two operations on 19 and 20 November near Jenin, Israeli forces shot and killed three Palestinians, including a 16-year-old boy in the village of Ash-Shuhada, and killed three Palestinians in Kafr Dan – two of them in an airstrike. On 1 December, Israeli forces killed four Palestinians during a seven-hour operation involving airstrikes and exchanges of fire with armed Palestinians in the village of Sir, south of Jenin. The Israel Defense Forces said it had conducted an airstrike targeting a cell that had carried out shooting attacks against nearby Israeli communities.

30. During the reporting period, Israeli security forces conducted over 1,300 search-and-arrest operations, which resulted in the detention of more than 1,400 Palestinians, including at least 55 children, amid reports of ill treatment, sexual violence and torture.

31. During the reporting period, there was an increase in the displacement of Palestinians: at least 26 Palestinian households, comprising 135 people, including 62 children, were displaced. The households cited settler violence and access restrictions. This represents a 31 per cent increase compared with the first nine months of 2024.

32. Violence against Israelis by Palestinians also continued at elevated levels in Israel and in the occupied West Bank. On 1 October, in Jaffa, 6 Israelis and 1 foreign national, including a 17-year-old girl and 2 women, were killed and 16 others were injured in a stabbing and shooting attack by 2 Palestinians from Hebron. One of the perpetrators was killed and the other severely injured and arrested. Hamas later claimed responsibility for the attack. On 15 October, an Israeli police officer was killed and four injured in a shooting attack by an armed Palestinian near Ashdod.

33. Settler-related violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, intensified during the reporting period, including incidents in the context of the annual olive harvest, which is a key source of income and livelihood for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. A total of 91 Palestinians and 4 Israelis were injured, with all incidents also resulting in property damage and/or theft. In most recorded incidents, Israeli settlers were reportedly accompanied by Israeli security forces who used force, including tear gas and live ammunition.

34. On 5 October, a group of some 40 Israeli settlers attacked with clubs, crowbars, pepper spray and rifles some 15 Palestinian families from the village of Al-Lubban al-Gharbi, Ramallah, while they were picking olives in Palestinian olive groves. A total of 25 Palestinians were injured, including 2 women, a child, a person with a disability and an elderly man; many had severe fractures to the head and limbs. The settlers also damaged five vehicles, stole tools and equipment, and threw away harvested olives. Israeli security forces arrived at the scene and dispersed the Palestinians with sound grenades.

35. On 17 October, Israeli security forces shot dead a 59-year-old Palestinian woman harvesting olives with her family and other community members in Faqqu'a, Jenin. According to an Israel Defense Forces statement, the Israel Defense Forces suspended the deputy commander and opened an investigation. On 27 October, settlers prevented a Palestinian family from harvesting their olive trees in Ayn Mansoor, Bethlehem Governorate, after which Israeli forces arrived and confiscated the harvested olives and the family's tools, and detained and threatened five members of the family, releasing them after three hours. On 7 November, a group of Israeli settlers, reportedly masked and armed, attacked Palestinian families and injured two individuals, who were harvesting olives on their land in Areas B and C of Ein Yabrud in Ramallah Governorate.

36. Attacks on Palestinian communities by Israeli settlers and other civilians also resulted in the displacement of Palestinians from their homes. On 16 September, settlers attacked the primary school of the Arab Al-Mulaihat village near Jericho, assaulting teachers, pupils and activists, amid ongoing efforts to force residents to leave their lands. Nine Palestinians and one Israeli were physically assaulted and injured during the incident. As a result of attacks and threats of attack, Palestinians have left their homes in Umm al-Jamal in the northern Jordan Valley, in Khirbet Zanuta in the South Hebron Hills, in the Jurat al-Khail community in Hebron Governorate and in Al-Mu'arrajat East between Jericho and Ramallah.

37. On 6 November, the Israeli Knesset approved the Deportation of Families of Terrorists Law, which gives the Minister for Interior the authority to deport family members (parents, siblings, spouses, children) of Palestinian attackers who "knew or should have known in advance about the terrorist's plan to commit an act of terror and did not make the necessary efforts to prevent the terror act, its completion or its outcome, including reporting to the security authorities or the police", or who

“expressed support or identified with an act of terror or published praise, sympathy or encouragement for an act of terror or terror organisation”, to Gaza or other locations. The law provides for the issuance of deportation orders ranging from 7 to 20 years, including of family members who are Israeli citizens.

IV. Incitement, provocations and inflammatory rhetoric

38. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council called upon both parties to act on the basis of international law, including international humanitarian law, and their previous agreements and obligations, to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, with the aim, inter alia, of de-escalating the situation on the ground, rebuilding trust and confidence, demonstrating through policies and actions a genuine commitment to the two-State solution and creating the conditions necessary for promoting peace. Incitement, inflammatory rhetoric and the glorification of the killing of civilians continued.

39. Hamas officials continued to call for violent attacks against Israelis and for the destruction of Israel, with one official saying: “Israel has no future in the region under any circumstances.” A senior Fatah official said that what Hamas “did on October 7th made them part of the Palestinian national self-liberation movement”.

40. Israeli ministers and members of Knesset called for encouraging the “voluntary migration” of Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip, with one minister saying that through such steps it was possible that “Gaza’s population will be reduced to half its current size in two years”. Ministers and members of Knesset also called for the re-establishment of settlements in Gaza, the continued destruction of Palestinian homes and property and limiting or ceasing the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza. One Member of Knesset called Palestinian society “a whole society that wants to murder us all, women, men and children, without distinction”. Another Minister said he had instructed his staff to “prepare the necessary infrastructure for applying sovereignty” in the occupied West Bank.

V. Affirmative steps to reverse negative trends

41. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council called for affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse the negative trends on the ground that were imperilling the two-State solution. Negative trends on the ground continued during the reporting period.

42. Amid hostilities in Gaza, the humanitarian situation deteriorated further from the already massive loss of civilian life and unprecedented levels of destruction. Gaza remains a zone of intense, active conflict, with humanitarian needs continuing to grow. Every Palestinian in Gaza has been affected, with over 2 million people uprooted from their homes and facing acute shortages of basic necessities. Some 17,000 children are unaccompanied or separated. The interim rapid damage and needs assessment conducted in April by the World Bank and the United Nations, with the support of the European Union, documented the immense scale of destruction and loss in the Gaza Strip. The enabling conditions to address this destruction and begin reconstruction have not been met.

43. Israel continues to impose severe restrictions on Gaza, including the disconnection of most Israeli-supplied electricity and on the entry of all goods, including food and fuel. The conflict has halted almost all local production of water, electricity and food. Wastewater treatment has collapsed. The sole Gaza power plant

has not operated since 11 October 2023. There are critical fuel shortages across Gaza, with fuel deliveries to northern Gaza limited to hospitals.

44. Before 7 October 2023, approximately 500 truckloads of goods entered Gaza daily, including commercial goods, humanitarian items and fuel. Since 7 October 2023, the number of trucks entering Gaza has fluctuated widely, from 83 trucks per day in November 2023 to 165 trucks per day in April 2024, down again to 37 trucks per day in October and up to 65 trucks per day in November. Since 8 October 2024, Israel has banned almost all commercial imports. In North Gaza Governorate, humanitarian partners are concerned that the entire population is at risk of dying from starvation, disease and violence. The amount of humanitarian aid entering Gaza continues to be wholly inadequate to the needs of the population.

45. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) initiative, during September and October 2024 the entire territory of Gaza was classified as experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC phase 4). Some 1.84 million people across the Gaza Strip are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity classified as “crisis” (IPC phase 3) or above, including nearly 133,000 people who are facing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC phase 5) and 664,000 who are experiencing emergency levels (IPC phase 4). The IPC Famine Review Committee issued an alert on 8 November warning that famine thresholds may have been crossed in northern Gaza. In October, 4,107 children were hospitalized as a result of acute malnutrition.

46. The second round of the polio outbreak response campaign was completed by the United Nations in a coordinated effort on 5 November 2024. Over half a million children under the age of 10 were vaccinated during the second round, including some 100,000 children in northern Gaza. An estimated 7,000 to 10,000 children could not be reached in areas of northern Gaza, such as Jabaliya, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahya, due to Israeli access restrictions and military operations.

47. Requests to Israel to open new crossings from Israel into Gaza and address the breakdown of law and order have only been partly met, limiting any potential improvements to the conditions required to provide humanitarian assistance. In the reporting period, of the 316 requests for humanitarian movements to Gaza and North Gaza Governorates, 56 were approved and 104 were approved but impeded, leaving more than 40 per cent denied. In November, 30 of the 36 requested coordinated movements to access Rafah Governorate were denied, excepting movements to the Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salim crossing. On 12 November, Israel opened the Kissufim crossing into Gaza; however, use of the crossing was impeded following the shooting of three drivers and the looting of supplies by armed Palestinians. In the context of the breakdown in law and order, humanitarian trucks have been subjected to well-organized looting at gunpoint by armed Palestinians, including criminal gangs, and at times in close proximity to Israel Defense Forces, with the majority of looting concentrated in specific areas where only one road is authorized for humanitarian traffic.

48. Hospitals, schools, United Nations facilities and other protected sites continue to be severely affected by military operations and targeted by the Israel Defense Forces, impeding or halting service and humanitarian aid delivery for Palestinians. The Israel Defense Forces has stated that its forces are targeting Hamas fighters and equipment, as well as large-scale tunnel networks under these and other civilian infrastructures, which are allegedly used for military purposes. The acute shortage of imported fuel has had an impact on patient care, including for newborns. An increase in infectious diseases has been observed, amid overcrowding in shelters, the destruction of water and sanitation systems and the decreased availability of health services.

49. Basic services in Gaza have been devastated. Over 625,000 children and youth have lost more than a full year of education. Health services have been left barely

functioning and on the verge of collapse owing to a lack of access to medicines, ambulances, basic life-saving treatments, electricity and water. More than 540,000 women and girls in Gaza are of reproductive age and need access to appropriate items to support hygiene, health, dignity and well-being. Formal employment is largely limited to those working on the humanitarian response. Electricity, water, sewage and solid waste, and telecommunications services have been destroyed or severely degraded and are inadequate to the needs of the population.

50. Across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians, preventing access to services, including medical treatment, schools and livelihoods, significantly affecting the economy, particularly around Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarm, and impeding access to occupied East Jerusalem, with significant damage to civilian infrastructure. On average, one Palestinian child has been killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, every two days since October 2023.

51. The Palestinian economy is projected to contract by more than 35 per cent by the end of 2024. The Palestinian Authority's financing gap is expected to more than double from 2023, reaching more than \$1.85 billion. The deep financial crisis has led to some public schools, health facilities and Palestinian Authority offices only being open 50 per cent of the time. UNRWA, in the West Bank, has reported a large increase in registered students and health visits in 2024. With the deep economic crisis, Palestinians in the West Bank face increasing levels of poverty.

52. On 28 October, the Knesset of Israel adopted two laws which, if implemented, could prevent UNRWA from continuing its essential work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The "Law to Cease UNRWA Operations in the Territory of the State of Israel" provides that "the purpose of this law is to prevent any UNRWA operations within the territory of the State of Israel" and that UNRWA "shall not operate any representative office, provide any services or carry out any activities, directly or indirectly, within the sovereign territory of the State of Israel".

53. The "Law to Cease UNRWA Operations" includes the following provisions: "the invitation to UNRWA, based on an exchange of letters between Israel and UNRWA from 6 Sivan 5727 (14 June A.D. 1967), will expire on 5 Tishrei 5785 (7 October A.D. 2024)"; "a government authority, including other bodies and individuals performing public duties according to law, shall not have any contact with UNRWA or anyone acting on its behalf"; and "nothing in the provisions of this law shall preclude any criminal proceeding against UNRWA employees, including such proceedings related to the events of 7 October 2023 or the Swords of Iron War, or any other criminal proceeding under Counter-Terrorism Law 5776-2016".

VI. Efforts by the parties and the international community to advance the peace process and other relevant developments

54. In its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.³

³ In its advisory opinion of 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice, after considering relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), expressed the view that Member States "are under an obligation ... to distinguish in their dealings with Israel between the territory of the State of Israel and the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967" and set out what that obligation encompassed, including with respect to treaty relations, economic dealings, investment relations and the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions.

55. In the same resolution, the Security Council called upon all parties to continue, in the interest of the promotion of peace and security, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process and urged in that regard the intensification and acceleration of international and regional diplomatic efforts and support aimed at achieving, without delay, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Road Map, and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967.

56. In its advisory opinion of 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice stated that it was of the opinion, among other things, that “the State of Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful”; “that the State of Israel is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible”; “that all States are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the continued presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”; “that international organizations, including the United Nations, are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation resulting from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”; and that “the United Nations, and especially the General Assembly, which requested this opinion, and the Security Council, should consider the precise modalities and further action required to bring to an end as rapidly as possible the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”.

57. On 29 September, formal diplomatic relations between Ireland and the State of Palestine were established, giving effect to the decision of Ireland in May when Ireland said it was recognizing Palestine as a sovereign and independent State.

58. Two countries took steps to sanction extremist Israeli settlers, settlement-outposts and related organizations. On 1 October, the United States of America added “Hilltop Youth”, a “violent extremist group that has repeatedly attacked Palestinians and destroyed Palestinian homes and property in the West Bank” to its sanctions list. On 18 November, the United States also sanctioned three individuals and three organizations, including the Settlement Movement of Gush Emunim Central Cooperative Association Ltd. (Amana), “a settlement development organization that is involved with U.S.-sanctioned individuals and outposts that perpetrate violence in the West Bank”. On 15 October, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland sanctioned three settler outposts – Tirzah Valley Farm Outpost, Meitarim Outpost and Shuvi Eretz Outpost – that “have been involved in facilitating, inciting, promoting or providing support for activity that amounts to a serious abuse of the right of Palestinians not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”. Four organizations, Od Yosef Chai Yeshiva, Hashomer Yosh, Torat Lechima and Amana, were also sanctioned by the United Kingdom.

59. On 7 October, the United States announced sanctions against four individuals and 10 entities associated with Hamas and its financing.

60. On 26 September, on the margins of the General Assembly, a ministerial meeting on the theme “The situation in Gaza and the implementation of the two-State solution as the path to a just and comprehensive peace” was held to discuss, inter alia, concrete measures to implement the two-State solution and the catastrophic situation in Gaza and beyond. The meeting was co-hosted by the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Gaza contact group, the European Union and Norway. At the meeting, the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution was

launched. Follow-up meetings were held in Riyadh and Brussels on 30 October and 28 November, respectively.

61. From 2 to 4 November and on 2 and 3 December, following direct talks between Fatah and Hamas in Cairo in early October, senior officials from the two factions continued consultations hosted by Egypt to discuss the current situation in Gaza and the future governance of the Gaza Strip.

62. On 11 November, Saudi Arabia hosted an extraordinary Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh to discuss the conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon. The summit's final resolution affirmed "support for the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate and inalienable national rights, foremost among which is their right to freedom and to an independent, sovereign state on the lines of June 4, 1967".

63. On 2 December, Egypt hosted the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance the Humanitarian Response in Gaza under the theme "A year of humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza: urgent needs and sustainable solutions". The conference aimed at securing clear commitments to provide aid to Gaza, enhancing international support to ensure the sustainability of the response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, mobilizing efforts to provide urgent humanitarian aid to the population of Gaza and planning for early recovery within the Strip.

VII. Observations

64. I reiterate my strong condemnation of the horrific attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Israel on 7 October 2023 and their continued holding of more than 100 hostages in Gaza. Nothing can justify these acts of terror. I reiterate my call for all hostages to be released immediately and unconditionally. I remain appalled that there are reasonable grounds to believe that hostages may be subjected to ongoing sexual violence and abuse. While in captivity, hostages must be treated humanely and allowed to receive visits and assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross. I reiterate that there is no justification for the deliberate killing, maiming, torture and abduction of civilians and other persons taking no active part in the hostilities and the use of sexual violence against them. The use of human shields and the firing of rockets indiscriminately towards Israeli population centres are in violation of international humanitarian law and must cease.

65. I reiterate that the level of suffering witnessed in Gaza is unprecedented during my term of office as Secretary-General of the United Nations. An unbearable level of suffering continued over the past year. A ceasefire in Gaza is long overdue. The continued collective punishment of the Palestinian people is unjustifiable. The relentless bombardment of Gaza by Israeli forces, the large number of civilian casualties, the blanket destruction of Palestinian neighbourhoods and the worsening humanitarian situation by the day are appalling. The intensity and brutality of these acts, particularly in northern Gaza – where destruction, lack of humanitarian access and military strikes are resulting in mass casualties – have rendered some areas uninhabitable and rendered the entire population of northern Gaza at imminent risk of dying due to disease, famine and violence. The widespread devastation and deprivation resulting from Israeli military operations in northern Gaza – especially around Jabaliya, Beit Lahya and Beit Hanoun – are making the conditions of life untenable for the Palestinian population there. This conflict continues to be waged with little regard for the requirements of international humanitarian law. I condemn the use by Israel of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in densely populated areas, which has caused massive casualties and damage to residential buildings, schools, hospitals, mosques and United Nations premises. United Nations premises are inviolable at all times.

66. I reiterate my unequivocal condemnation of the widespread killing and injury of civilians in Gaza, including women and children, and the deprivation of essential items needed to survive. I am concerned over what may amount to violations of international humanitarian law in the conduct of hostilities, including non-compliance with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack and against the effects of attacks. International humanitarian law always applies to all parties to a conflict, and its application does not depend on reciprocity. The protection of civilians is paramount in any armed conflict. There must be full accountability for any atrocity crimes that have been committed.

67. I mourn the United Nations personnel killed in Gaza and strongly condemn the killing of all health and humanitarian personnel and journalists. These incidents must stop and be thoroughly and independently investigated. The perpetrators of these acts must be held accountable.

68. Overall, due to Israeli-imposed restrictions, looting and insecurity, supplies have entered Gaza in levels that are deplorably inadequate to meeting the overwhelming needs of the population, including the large numbers of internally displaced persons living in an ever-diminishing space in extremely overcrowded conditions. To address these needs, the United Nations, its partners and the civilian population urgently require the predictable entry and unimpeded movement of food, shelter materials, medicine and fuel and the capacity to repair essential, life-saving infrastructure, including the healthcare system. This must comprise commercial and humanitarian goods, given that humanitarian assistance alone cannot meet the needs of 2.3 million people. Noting the opening of additional entry points for humanitarian aid, I call upon Israel to fulfil its obligations under international law, including allowing and facilitating the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need into and throughout Gaza, including the opening of additional crossings into Gaza, and to create the conditions that will permit the return of Palestinians to their homes. I recall that Israel, as the occupying Power, has the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the Palestinian population and ensure that their needs are met.

69. Attacks on hospitals have left healthcare decimated at a time of drastically increased need in Gaza. All parties must respect and protect humanitarian relief personnel. I condemn all attacks on humanitarian aid workers and facilities and the looting of aid in the context of the breakdown of law and order. These actions are unacceptable and must cease immediately. I reiterate my call for the full investigation of all such incidents and accountability for any violations of international law that may have been committed.

70. I note the achievement of the polio vaccination campaign. While falling short of our targets, particularly in the north of Gaza, the use of tactical pauses and examples of functioning coordination demonstrate what is possible and achievable if the most basic requests of the United Nations are met. I call upon the parties to replicate this example to enable humanitarian responses to help Palestinians survive the winter and feed their families, and for children to receive education.

71. I reiterate my call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages in Gaza. Along with my Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, I am continuously engaged with all stakeholders towards these objectives and stand ready to support the implementation of an agreement. I welcome the continued efforts, including by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, to overcome the significant obstacles and reach a deal.

72. I remain deeply alarmed by the relentless Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which continues to fuel tensions, impede access by Palestinians to their land and threaten the viability of a fully

independent, democratic, contiguous and sovereign Palestinian State. The ever-growing settlement footprint, including outposts, contributes to a rise in settler-related violence and further entrenches the Israeli occupation, hampering the free movement of the population and undermining the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. I note in this regard the finding of the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 19 July 2024 that the “prolonged character of Israel’s unlawful policies and practices aggravates their violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination”.

73. The year 2024 saw an overall decrease in settlement advancements compared with 2023, which saw the most advancements since the United Nations began systematically tracking advancements in 2017. Nevertheless, the overall advancements in 2024 remain high and demonstrate that, while the rate may vary from year to year, advancements continue relentlessly. Overall, as of the time of writing, plans for 13,190 housing units were advanced, approved or tendered, compared with 25,470 units in 2023. In Area C, a total of 10,890 housing units were advanced, approved or tendered, compared with some 15,930 in 2023, representing a 30 per cent decrease. In occupied East Jerusalem, a total of 2,300 housing units were advanced, approved or tendered, compared with some 9,540 in 2023, a 75 per cent decrease.

74. I reiterate that all Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, including all related infrastructure, have no legal validity and are in flagrant violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. I am deeply concerned that, over the past year, the Government of Israel has continued to systematically promote policies that have strengthened the involvement of civilian officials in control over the occupied West Bank, including transferring some security functions to civilian control, while some government officials called for the annexation of areas in the occupied West Bank. These steps, alongside settlement advancement and large-scale State land declarations that impede Palestinian access to these lands and their resources, threaten the contiguity and viability of a Palestinian State. I once again urge the Government of Israel to cease all settlement activity immediately, in line with its obligations under international law. In this respect, I note the recent findings by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 19 July 2024, which declared, *inter alia*, that the continued presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was unlawful and must end as rapidly as possible.

75. The demolition and seizure of Palestinian-owned structures, including internationally funded humanitarian projects, as well as structures related to income generation and the provision of essential services, entail numerous violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and raise concerns about the risk of forcible transfer. I note the conclusions of the International Court of Justice in this regard. I once again call upon the Government of Israel to end this practice and prevent the possible displacement and forced eviction of Palestinians, in accordance with its international obligations, and to approve plans to allow Palestinians to build legally and address their development needs.

76. The escalating violence and tensions in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are highly concerning and could trigger a broader explosion at any point. The intensified operations by Israeli forces, increased settler violence and continued attacks against Israelis are highly alarming. Increased armed exchanges between Palestinians and the increased use by Israeli security forces of airstrikes and other heavy explosives in the occupied West Bank have exacerbated these tensions and led to increased levels of destruction, including in Area A. These dynamics have also led to high levels of detentions and casualties.

77. I am alarmed by the lethal attacks carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinians, including sometimes in the proximity and with the support of Israeli

security forces, and by Palestinians against Israelis. Israeli settlers are rarely held accountable for violent attacks, fuelling tensions and increasing the level of threat to Palestinians and their property. I urge Israel, as the occupying Power, to ensure the protection of the Palestinian population and to investigate and hold perpetrators of all attacks accountable. Attacks by Palestinians against Israelis must also cease. All perpetrators of attacks must be held accountable.

78. I reiterate my concern about the large number of Palestinians, including children, detained by Israeli security forces and the increase in the number of Palestinians held in administrative detention, without charge or trial, by Israel since 7 October 2023. Reports of torture and other ill-treatment during arrest and detention, including some forms of sexual violence, are also deeply concerning.

79. I am particularly appalled that children continue to be victims of violence. Children must never be the target of violence or be put in harm's way. I am also concerned that Palestinian children continue to be arrested in large numbers and held for prolonged periods of time, including in administrative detention. To date, 7,445 Palestinians, at least 345 of whom are children, have been arrested by Israeli forces in 2024. I reiterate my call for Israel to use detention as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period, to prevent all forms of ill-treatment in detention and to end the administrative detention of children, who are entitled to special protection.

80. I remain concerned by the continued Israeli practice of holding the bodies of killed Palestinians. I call upon Israel to return the withheld bodies to their families, in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law.

81. I reiterate that all security forces in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable to protect life. I call upon Israel to abide by its obligations under international law, including with regard to the proportional use of force, and ensure thorough, independent and prompt investigations into all instances of possible excessive use of force, holding those responsible to account.

82. I am appalled at the numerous instances during the reporting period in which officials glorified violence and engaged in dangerous provocations, incitement and inflammatory language, including with regard to settlement expansion, which will only lead to greater polarization and risk further bloodshed. Leaders have an obligation to prevent acts of terror and violence directed against civilians. The incitement to violence must stop immediately.

83. I reiterate my call to the parties for the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem to be respected and upheld, taking into account the special and historic role of Jordan as custodian of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

84. I am deeply concerned by the adoption by the Knesset of Israel of two laws concerning UNRWA. These laws, if implemented, could prevent UNRWA from continuing its essential work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which would have devastating consequences for Palestinian refugees, considering that there is no alternative to UNRWA to meet the needs of Palestinian refugees, including those of the 2.5 million registered in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the absence of UNRWA would disrupt essential health, education and social services, significantly affecting humanitarian conditions and potentially destabilizing the region. This disruption could collapse operations across 96 schools serving 47,000 students, three vocational training centres and 43 health centres, and halt cash assistance and other support to over 150,000 Palestine refugees. Additionally, the Agency's emergency response, including critical interventions following operations

by Israeli forces in the northern West Bank, could cease. If implemented, the legislation could suffocate efforts to ease human suffering in the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory. I again urge Israel to act consistently with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and its other obligations under international law, including under international humanitarian law, and those concerning the privileges and immunities of the United Nations. National legislation cannot alter those obligations. In the event that UNRWA is compelled to cease its activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, I wish to recall that Israel would be left to ensure that the range of services and assistance which UNRWA has been providing are provided in accordance with its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Israel, as the occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, is bound by the rules of international humanitarian law concerning occupation.

85. I appreciate the Security Council's support for UNRWA, as reflected in its press statement of 30 October 2024, and I call upon the international community to enhance its support to the Agency's efforts to continue operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. UNRWA remains committed to implementing the recommendations of the report and action plan put forward by the Independent Review of Mechanisms and Procedures to Ensure Adherence by UNRWA to the Humanitarian Principle of Neutrality.

86. It is vital that the international community provide immediate support to the Palestinian Government to address its fiscal challenges, strengthen its governance capacity and prepare it to reassume its responsibilities in Gaza. I reiterate that we must establish political and security frameworks that can address the humanitarian catastrophe, start early recovery, rebuild Gaza and lay the groundwork for a political process to end the occupation as rapidly as possible and establish a viable two-State solution. It is vital that these frameworks facilitate a legitimate Palestinian Government that can reunify Gaza and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, politically, economically and administratively while reversing the steadily deteriorating dynamics throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Palestinian unity is an essential building block to a just and lasting peace. In addition, I categorically reject any attempt to establish new settlements in Gaza following the hostilities, and there must be no attempt to reduce or annex the territory of Gaza in whole or in part. Israeli measures that undermine the Palestinian Authority must be urgently reversed.

87. The devastation and misery of the past year have reinforced once again a simple truth: Palestinians and Israelis can no longer wait to establish a viable political horizon. Now is the time to lay the foundations for a better future for Palestinians, Israelis and the broader region. Israelis, Palestinians, the States of the region and the broader international community must urgently take steps that will enable the parties to re-engage on the long-delayed political path to achieving a two-State solution. In its resolution [2735 \(2024\)](#), the Security Council stressed the importance of unifying the Gaza Strip with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority. The United Nations will continue to support all such efforts.

88. I remain committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis in ending the occupation and resolving the conflict in line with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and bilateral agreements in pursuit of the vision of two States – Israel and a fully independent, democratic, contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian State, of which Gaza is an integral part – living side by side in peace and security within secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

89. I express my deep appreciation to my Special Coordinator, who is completing his assignment, and I thank him and his team for their outstanding service in what remains a deeply challenging context. I pay tribute to all United Nations personnel who have lost their lives in this conflict – the highest number in any conflict – and to all the United Nations personnel and heroic humanitarian aid workers who remain committed to their work despite the enormous danger to their health, well-being and lives.
