

27 July 2022

Personal details removed for proactive release

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 6160  
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000  
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 28162

Tēnā koe Personal details removed for proactive release

I refer to your email of 30 June 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*According to your website, World Vision and its World Vision New Zealand affiliate are part of your Negotiated Partnerships program, essentially pre-vetted for engaging in large aid programmes, in recognition of their efficiency and trustworthiness.*

*Earlier this month, after kidnapping and torturing him for more than six years, an illegal secret 'court' in 'israel' convicted Gaza World Vision Director Mohammed El Halabi of 'terror' charges, based on secret evidence invented by the zionists themselves. Investigations from World Vision international and even the zionist-affiliated Australian government have found that these claims were without any merit. All human investigations have found that El Halabi was not targeted for any crimes, but because he worked for an organization founded on Christian principles, which opposed the genocide of the Palestinian people, both anathema to the zionist regime.*

*Despite the close ties between MFAT and World Vision, MFAT has made no statements against this persecution of an innocent man, intended by the zionists to prevent aid going to their Gaza concentration camp, to assist the zionist genocide of the Palestinian people. Hostile foreign lobby groups like the 'Israel Institute of NZ' are now using this fake conviction to attack World Vision and support the genocide of the Palestinian people.*

*To aid in investigating how these foreign groups are using their fake trial to attack the Palestinian people and compromise the supposed 'even-handed' policy of MFAT, I am requesting:*

- a) All documents held by MFAT since 2016 that mention Mohammed El Halabi.*
- b) All communications with hostile foreign groups like the 'Israel Institute of NZ' and 'Zionist Federation of NZ' regarding 'World Vision' since 2016.*

The information relevant to your request is attached.

We have withheld some information under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect individuals' privacy. We have identified no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

We also hold a document titled [Amnesty International Report 2017/18: The state of the World's Human Rights](#). This document is publicly available on the Amnesty International website so has not been included in our response.

We have no record of any response being sent to the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations in relation to either of the letters included in our response to this OIA request.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**From:** s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Monday, 8 August 2016 2:58 a.m.

**To:** ESD

**Subject:** OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST - Funding to World Vision for Gaza

Please find attached an official information act request.

Thank you,

s9(2)

(~)

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s9(2)(a)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Head Office 195 Lambton Quay Private Bag 18 901  
Wellington 6160, New Zealand By Email: DMESD@mfat.govt.nz

Dear Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

RE: OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST Funding to World Vision for Gaza

With respect, I request the following information under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982:

1. All information sent, received or otherwise held by MFAT and/or any executive and/or minister at MFAT regarding funding to World Vision and the audit thereof, between 01 Jan 2012 and the present day;

2. All information sent, received or otherwise held by MFAT and/or any executive and/or minister at MFAT regarding funding to World Vision intended for Gaza or the Palestinian Territories and the audit thereof, between 01 Jan 2012 and the present day;

3. All information sent, received or otherwise held by MFAT and/or any executive and/or minister at MFAT regarding legal opinions and/or risk assessments in relation to providing funds to World Vision for work in Gaza or the Palestinian Territories and the audit thereof, between 01 Jan 2012 and the present day;

4. A list of all OIA requests received and responded to by MFAT and/or any executive and/or minister at MFAT on any of the above subjects, ordered by the date of the request, including the name of the requester, the information that was sought and the date on which it was responded to.

The information sought in this request is to be used as part of a report on New Zealand's potential funding of terror groups. As the information will be used to ensure a greater understanding of the use of taxpayer funds, I ask that any fee is waived.

It is understood elements of the requested information might not be considered public information. If this is the case, I would ask each element is considered separately, described as best it can be and reasons for any information being declined being set against the information sought.



I would like to register my desire to have the information provided electronically. If it is to come in another form, I would appreciate being told prior to it being sent. I anticipate receiving the information under the terms of the act, which stipulates a maximum period of 20 business days. It must be noted this is the maximum period for the response under the legislation and you are obliged to provide the information sought as soon as is reasonably practicable. Written confirmation of receipt of this request would be appreciated. If I can be of any assistance, please call me on s9(2)(a) My postal address is s9(2)(a)

Yours sincerely, s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act



16 August 2016

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 5045  
New Zealand

+64 4 439 8000  
+64 4 472 9596

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 8 August 2016 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. All information sent, received or otherwise held by MFAT and/or any executive and/or minister at MFAT regarding funding to World Vision and the audit thereof, between 01 Jan 2012 and the present day;*
- 2. All information sent, received or otherwise held by MFAT and/or any executive and/or minister at MFAT regarding funding to World vision intended for Gaza or the Palestinian Territories and the audit thereof, between 01 Jan 2012 and the present day;*
- 3. All information sent, received or otherwise held by MFAT and/or any executive and/or minister at MFAT regarding legal opinions and/or risk assessments in relation to providing funds to World Vision for work in Gaza or the Palestinian Territories and the audit thereof, between 01 Jan 2012 and the present day;*
- 4. A list of all OIA requests received and responded to by MFAT and/or any executive and/or minister at MFAT on any of the above subjects, ordered by the date of the request, including the name of the requester, the information that was sought and the date on which it was responded to.*

A large volume of documents are potentially within scope of the first part of your request. Since January 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has funded 30 activities with World Vision New Zealand, as outlined in the table below. In addition, funding was provided to World Vision International for responses to the 2014 Solomon Islands flooding and Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015.

Country	Activity Name
Cambodia	Community and School WASH Project (CSWASH)
Lebanon	Response to the Syria refugee crisis 2013
Lebanon	Response to the Syria refugee crisis 2015

Country	Activity Name
Myanmar	Improved economic and environmental livelihoods project in Myanmar
Nepal	Earthquake response
Papua New Guinea	Bougainville Community Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project
Papua New Guinea	Bougainville Community Economic Mobilisation (BCEM) Project
Papua New Guinea	Madang Maternal, New-born and Child Health
Papua New Guinea	Bogia Smallholder Market Access Project
Papua New Guinea	Hanuabada Urban WASH Project
Philippines	Typhoon Haiyan response
Solomon Islands	Weather Coast Community Economic Development (WCCED)
Solomon Islands	Temotu Community Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Project
Solomon Islands	Temotu Literacy for Livelihoods Project
Solomon Islands	East Malaita community economic development (CED)
Solomon Islands	Earthquake and tsunami response
Solomon Islands	Flooding response
Solomon Islands	Prepositioned emergency relief supplies
Solomon Islands	Drought response
Solomon Islands	East Malaita Early Childhood Education Project
Tanzania	Rural Lending for Income Growth
Timor Leste	Bobonaro Food Security and Economic Development
Timor Leste	Baucau Water for Future Project
Tanzania	Rural Lending for Income Growth
Vanuatu	Central Vanuatu Agricultural-Based Income Generating Project
Vanuatu	Tanna Integrated WASH Project
Vanuatu	Agricultural Development for Tanna's Economic Growth
Vanuatu	Cyclone Pam response – supplies
Vanuatu	Cyclone Pam response – relief and early recovery
Viet Nam	Ethnic Minority Economic Empowerment

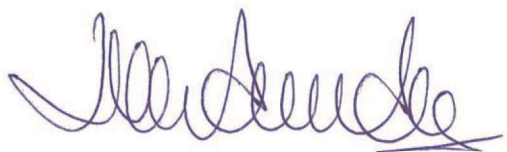
There is a possibility that the information you ask for in the first part of your request will require substantial collation and research to compile. Are you able to more specifically identify the information which you are seeking? For example, are there certain activities from the list above that you are interested in? Also, are there particular documents relevant to activity

funding from the list above that you are interested in? Such documents could include funding guidelines, a call for proposals, concept and design documents, appraisal documents, funding authorities, funding arrangements or partner reports.

Under s18(e) of the OIA, I am refusing parts 2, 3 and 4 of your request as this information does not exist.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie-Anne Lee', with a horizontal line underneath.

Julie-Anne Lee  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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# MINISTERIAL

## OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

To: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ministerial No	M9201	To be answered by (please circle) PM <input checked="" type="radio"/> MFA <input type="radio"/>	
Received MFAT	21 JUL 2016	Correspondent	Chris Clarke
Due date	4 Aug 2016	Lead division	MEA
ESD contact	Alex	Approved by	

Please provide a draft response to the attached ministerial. The response should be provided within two weeks of receipt.

Notes:

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**From:** East Coast Bays Electorate Office <office@ecbelectorate.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 July 2016 4:28 p.m.  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Chris Clarke, CEO of World Vision  
**Attachments:** Hon Murray McCully from World Vision CEO Chris Clarke 20.07.16.pdf

One for you ☺

**From:** Chris Clarke [mailto:Chris.Clarke@worldvision.org.nz]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 July 2016 4:26 PM  
**To:** murray.mccully@xtra.co.nz  
**Cc:** 'Cat.McDiarmid@parliament.govt.nz'  
**Subject:** Letter from Chris Clarke, CEO of World Vision

Dear Mr. McCully,

Attached please find a letter for your attention regarding the detention in Israel of a World Vision employee.

With kind regards,

Chris Clarke



This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the intended recipients. If you are not an intended recipient you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. World Vision New Zealand therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of e-mail transmission. If verification is required please request a hard-copy version.



# World Vision

## New Zealand

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New Zealand

Tel: 64 9 580 7700 / 0800 800 776  
Fax: 64 9 580 7799  
Email: [email@worldvision.org.nz](mailto:email@worldvision.org.nz)  
Web: [worldvision.org.nz](http://worldvision.org.nz)

20 July, 2016

The Hon Murray McCully, MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington, 6160

Dear Mr McCully

I write to you on a matter of the highest concern to World Vision. Our Gaza Zonal Manager, Mohammad El Halabi, was arrested on June 15th at the Erez checkpoint crossing back into Gaza, following meetings in Jerusalem. He had all the necessary documentation for the legal crossing – a crossing he has made many times in the past. No charges have been filed, and his detention has been repeatedly extended a few days at a time. He was not given access to a lawyer until July 6th. Mr. El Halabi is a long-term, trusted and respected employee with an excellent professional reputation.

On July 12th, the ISA came to our offices in Jerusalem to make further enquires with respect to this investigation. Approximately 40 heavily-armed officers entered the premises, questioned our staff and reviewed documents for 4 hours. During this time, staff mobile phones were confiscated, approximately 30 staff were held in a conference room with no way to contact their families and given no information about what was happening.

World Vision is one of the largest and most highly respected humanitarian organizations in the world, with a budget of \$2.6 billion, works in over 100 countries, and has 46,000 employees. As a Christian agency, we have been providing humanitarian support to communities in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza since 1975 and have long and good relations with a variety of Israeli and Jewish organizations as well as the Israeli government. Additionally, World Vision's offices in Jerusalem are in the Augusta Victoria hospital complex, which is overwhelmingly used by international and other NGOs and presents no physical threat to government visitors.

While we have complete faith in Mr. Halabi's innocence, regardless of the suspicions against him, such inexcusable actions against the World Vision Organization itself cannot be justified under any circumstances. We are sure that the authorities are well aware of the fact that the Organization would have been more than willing to provide any information or documentation requested and the dramatic show of force serves no purpose or interest other than to intimidate and traumatize our staff, something for which we can find no explanation.

Moreover, on July 13th we learned that World Vision's account in Bank Leumi was frozen, with no explanation, preventing our Jerusalem office from paying staff salaries and other routine expenses from this account.

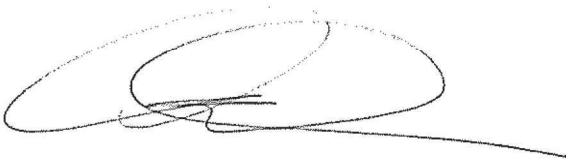


The Hon Murray McCully, MP  
20 July, 2016  
Page 2

World Vision protests both of these actions in the strongest terms and we have requested an explanation. We have also urgently requested an explanation for Mohammad El Halabi's detention, an indication of when he will be released, and a fair and transparent process that allows Mohammad full access to legal counsel.

We ask for any assistance you can give in upholding the basic human rights of Mr Halaby, unfreezing World Vision's bank account in Bank Leumi and insisting the Israeli Government give an explanation for their actions.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Clarke', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Clarke  
CEO, World Vision New Zealand

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Chris Clarke  
Chief Executive  
World Vision  
chris.clarke@worldvision.org.nz

Dear Chris Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 20 July 2016 regarding the arrest of Mohammed El Halabi in Erez, and the freezing of World Vision's bank account with Bank Leumi.

Thank you for bringing these events to my attention. I am concerned by reports suggesting that there has been officially sanctioned interference with civil society organisations.

We recognise that the civil society space is being increasingly constrained in many countries around the world. New Zealand regularly engages both bilaterally and in multilateral fora to preserve and protect civil and political rights, including the right to a fair trial, and to urge for protection against arbitrary detention.

We will continue to monitor Mr El Halabi's situation as events unfold.

Yours sincerely

Hon Murray McCully  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(a) @un.org>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 November 2021 8:13 am

To: OCHA-OPT-HCT-Heads <ochaophthctheads2017@un.org>; OCHA-OPT-HCT-Plus-Heads-Donors <ochaophthctplusheads@un.org>

Cc: OCHA-OPT-HCT-Deputies-Assistants <ochaophthctdeputyand@un.org>; OCHA-OPT-HCT-Plus-Deputies-Donors <ochaophthctplusdeput@un.org>; s9(2)(a) un.org>; OCHA-OPTFCUNorth <ochaoptfcunorth@un.org>; s9(2)(a) @un.org>; s9(2)(a) @un.org>; s9(2)(a) @un.org>; s9(2)(a) @un.org>; s9(2)(a) @un.org>

Subject: Latest Key Facts and Figures and Key Messages and Invitation to Northern West Bank Field Visit - 7 December

Importance: High

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of s9(2)(a) , the Humanitarian Coordinator, please find attached for your reference the following:

1. Joint UN – AIDA Statement on the Designation of the six NGOs which was released today
2. HC Key Messages
3. Latest Key Facts and Figures – November 2021

On behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator I am also pleased to invite you to save the date for the field briefing to the northern West Bank, organized by the Humanitarian Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), focused on the humanitarian situation resulting from Israeli coercive measures against Palestinians in Qalqilya governorate and responses as well as development activities (Nexus).

The visit is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 7 December, departing from Jerusalem at 09:00 in the morning, and returning to Jerusalem by 16:00 in the afternoon.

Through the field visit, we will provide an overview of the 'coercive environment' concept, its origins, its applicability to the oPt context and its humanitarian implications along with the development dimension. In each community, we will hear directly from affected persons and humanitarian/developments partners. A detailed agenda with timing and logistics guidance will be shared with confirmed participants closer to the date of the visit. For those who already wish to confirm your participation please confirm with s9(2)(a) (s9(2)(a) @un.org<mailto:s9(2)(a) @un.org>), by Friday 3 December COB. We will send a reminder email nearer to the date.

If you have any questions regarding the attached documents and or the field visit, please do not hesitate to be in touch with the OCHA team.

With warm wishes,

s9(2)

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s9(2)(a)

GOVE-1151755117-10760



Head of Office

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), oPt

Mobile: s9(2)(a) | E-mail: s9(2)(a) [@un.org](mailto:s9(2)(a)@un.org)

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reliefweb.int <<https://reliefweb.int/>> | Youtube <<https://www.youtube.com/user/OCHAoPt>> |

Humanitarian Data Exchange <<https://data.humdata.org/group/pse?tags=migration>>

Twitter: @OCHAoPt <<https://twitter.com/OCHAoPt>> | Facebook:

OCHAoPt <<https://www.facebook.com/ochaopt/>>

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**Key Humanitarian Issues and Messages,**  
**Occupied Palestinian Territory November 2021**

Out of scope

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Out of scope

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Out of scope

- **Express concern regarding the trend of arrests and detentions of staff of CSOs and human rights defenders,** including Mohammed el-Halabi, former Director of the World Vision Gaza office and who has been in detention for over five years.



Out of scope

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



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Ref. MI.181/2020

25 November 2020

Excellency,

I write to you to convey the somber letter and urgent appeal of a Palestinian father in the Gaza Strip, Dr. Khalil el Halabi, regarding the plight of his son, Mohammed el Halabi, who has been held captive by Israel, the occupying Power, since June 2016, imprisoned without any evidence of the charges brought against him and enduring forced interrogations and torture aimed at pressuring a confession from him for a crime he did not commit. Mohammed has long engaged in humanitarian work in support of his people was the recipient of a UN Humanitarian Hero award in 2014 in recognition, *inter alia*, for his tireless work with Palestinian children in Gaza who have been afflicted with cancer, and is recognized widely for his humanitarian efforts.

I share this letter with you at the request of his father, urgently appealing for any advocacy and action that can help to address Mohammed's plight and facilitate his release from Israeli prison. I also take this opportunity to reiterate the Palestinian leadership's abiding call for the release of all Palestinian children, women and men that are being unlawfully detained and imprisoned by Israel, the occupying Power, including administrative detainees, and for urgent attention in particular to the most vulnerable of the prisoners, including children, the sick and elderly and especially in this time of global pandemic, and urge the international community's mobilization in this regard.

I would be grateful if you could bring my letter and the annexed letter of Dr. el Halabi to the attention of the Members of the Security Council for their urgent consideration.

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

Dr. Riyad Mansour  
Minister, Permanent Observer of the  
State of Palestine to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King  
The President of the Security Council  
of the United Nations  
The United Nations  
New York



To: Members of the UN General Assembly  
Members of the UN Security Council,

By way of Dr. Riyadh Mansour  
Permanent representative of the State of Palestine to the UN

I am writing to you in regards to the case of my son, the engineer Mohammad Khalil Al Halabi who has been unjustly held in Israeli jails since June 15th 2016. He has been presented at 152 sessions of Israeli courts in one of the longest courts known without any proof being presented publicly against him. Even his lawyer is not allowed to see what they claim is the reason for his arrest. What the Israelis say publicly that he diverted money from the organization he was working for World Vision has been refuted by reputable governmental agencies of the Australian government who was the main donor and by the world's leading audit companies.

My son was tortured for two months as the Israeli interrogators tried to extract a confession from him and as a result, he has lost 40% of his ability to hear. The torture included putting a dirty bag over his head and forcing him to sit for a long time while preventing him from food and sleep. He was held in an isolated room 25cmx25cm with his hands handcuffed behind his back. He was threatened with rape and he was subject to loud music. All to force him to confess to a crime he has never committed.

World Vision and the Australian government conducted intensive investigations of the alleged crime and found no proof of any irregularity in his work and both have condemned his continued arrest as has most international organizations including the OCHA which produced a very strong statement calling for his immediate release.

His lawyer has told the media that the Israelis know he is innocent but they are not willing to climb down the tree that they had ascended to so as not to be embarrassed and the result is this prolonged never-ending court delays. My son could have been released a long time if he plead guilty but he refuses to plead guilty to a crime he never committed.

Mohammad Al Halabi has been honored for his work by President Arafat and has received your own UN's Humanitarian Hero Award in 2014 for his tireless work with cancer children in Gaza and his relentless effort to try and ease the humanitarian disaster to the people of Gaza.

I hope that this letter can be distributed to all member states and that my son's name is publicly mentioned by all including His Excellency the Secretary General, perhaps that could force the Israeli government to agree to release him and end this long and unjust detention of an innocent man.

Finally, my message to the Israeli government: this is not the way to make a just peace. A peace that will allow our children to live in peace. We are seekers of a just peace and a just solution to our cause which requires that the issue of prisoners is addressed.

Dr. Khalil el Halabi  
Gaza

November 25th 2020



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



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة  
لدولة فلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Ref. SGC.137/2022

20 June 2022

Excellency,

**A State that commits extrajudicial executions, targets civilians of a specific ethnicity, nationality or race for ethnic cleansing, and arbitrarily jails civilians and systematically abuses their human rights, including by acts of torture, is a not a democratic or law-abiding State; it is a State in contempt of international law.** When that State is able to get away with war crimes and crimes against humanity with zero consequences, the result is unbridled impunity that is the cause of grave human suffering.

**In the absence of accountability for such grave breaches, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to hunt down and assassinate Palestinians, to demolish homes aimed at the forced transfer of Palestinian families and communities, and to arbitrarily imprison thousands of Palestinians, destroying countless of lives and the prospects for a just and peaceful solution to this historic injustice.**

In the pre-dawn hours of 17 June, Israeli occupying forces (IOF) raided Jenin refugee camp and once again perpetrated murder against Palestinian civilians. **Dozens of Israeli soldiers ambushed and executed in cold-blood three young Palestinian men: Yousef Nasser Salah, age 23, Baraa Lahlouh, age 24, and Laith Abu Srour, age 24.** These premeditated killings are being justified by the occupying Power as so-called “counter-terrorism”, the pretext constantly exploited by Israel to commit what are obvious extrajudicial executions of civilians who are accused by the occupier that then **condemns them to death** without a shred of evidence and without a fair trial.

**The execution of these young men is yet further proof of not only Israel’s callous disregard for Palestinian life, but of its prevailing presumption of guilt of all Palestinians, whether for their mere insistence on their right to live peacefully and securely in their homeland or for exercising their right to resist this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime, rights enshrined in international law.**

Acting as judge, jury and executioner, Israel also carries on with its unlawful and arbitrary arrest and detention of thousands of Palestinian civilians, among them children. **Human rights monitoring indicates that just since the start of the year, Israel has detained 450 Palestinian children, the majority of them – 353 children – from occupied East Jerusalem, where the occupation’s anti-Palestinian campaign is in a frenzy.**

Currently, **170 Palestinian children** are captive in Israeli prisons, in addition to dozens of others who were minors when they were imprisoned by Israel’s juvenile military courts, the **only juvenile military courts in the world.** One of those who has lost his childhood to the cruelty of the occupation’s military prisons is **Ahmed Manasra**, who is being held in “Ramla prison hospital”. **Arrested by IOF in 2015 when he was only 13 years old, Ahmed has remained in Israeli captivity for the past 7 years in spite of grave psychological illness and now deteriorating physical health due to years of torture.** We call for an end to the torture of this young man and for his immediate release and of all Palestinian children and youth imprisoned by this illegal occupation.

Another case is that of **Mohammed El-Halabi**, a former program director for the charity organization World Vision in the besieged Gaza Strip, who has been **arbitrarily detained by Israel since 2016, with 24 extensions of his detention** and was convicted last week of so-called “terror financing” based on **secret evidence.** Mr. El-Halabi was charged with “diverting funds for terror” despite multiple international audits, including by World Vision itself and the Australian Government as a major funder of the charity, that found **no material evidence whatsoever of the diversion of funds.**

H.E. Mr. Ferit Hoxha  
President of the Security Council  
The United Nations, New York



The Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights has continually raised serious concerns about the plight of Mr. El-Halabi, a father of five children, and his subjection to ***“cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment that may amount to torture”*** and other human rights violations during 6 years of administrative detention and countless coerced interrogations. Moreover, this is **yet another case of Israel’s exploitation of counter-terrorism laws to target human rights and humanitarian actors, just as it has charged six Palestinian NGOs as being terror organizations**, aimed at silencing them, and of the **Israeli judicial system’s complicity in this illegal occupation**.

On 16 June, **UN human rights experts** – Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights situation in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Fionnuala Ni Aoláin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and Diego García-Sayán, Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers – issued a statement stating, *inter alia*: ***“Convicting a humanitarian aid worker in serious violation of the right to a fair trial and on baseless charges of ‘terrorism’ is further evidence of Israel’s egregious misuse of counter-terrorism measures to suppress voices of human rights defenders”***. They also stressed that: ***“This practice of arbitrary arrest and detention is part and parcel of the protracted military occupation, which subjugates Palestinians to oppression and strips them of any sense of human rights and dignity”***.

Likewise, in another glaring case of the absence of due process and abuse of human rights, Israel continues the **administrative detention of Mr. Salah Hammouri**, a Palestinian-French citizen, and has revoked his residency rights in Jerusalem. Mr. Hammouri’s illegal detention and the violation of his right to live in his city, Jerusalem, with his wife and children, is illustrative of a **recurrent practice by Israel aimed at stripping Palestinians of their rights and emptying Jerusalem of its indigenous Palestinian inhabitants**.

**We reiterate the calls for the release of Ahmed Manasra, Mohammed El-Halabi, Salah Hammouri and all of the 4,700 Palestinians being illegally held captive by Israel in its jails and detention centers**. Israel must be demanded to cease all such illegal actions and to respect its obligations as the occupying Power in accordance with international humanitarian law, including all relevant provisions of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention and call on the **High Contracting Parties to uphold their obligation to enforce the Convention in all circumstances**.

Further in this regard, we again draw urgent attention to the **protection crisis being faced by more than a thousand Palestinians in Masafer Yatta, near Al-Khalil (Hebron)**. Despite the international community’s calls on Israel to halt its illegal plans, it continues with the seizure and demolition of homes and other civilian structures aimed at the forcible transfer – i.e. **ethnically cleansing** – of more than 1,200 Palestinian children, women and men in order to establish a so-called “military training zone” for the illegal occupying forces in our land. **The homes of five families in Al Fakhit village and another four homes Markaz village have already been demolished, forcing the families to sleep in tents and caves**, and IOF continue to harass and intimidate communities, including through **menacing military drills** in the area that are traumatizing population, especially children, and clearly aimed at coercing them to leave. Similarly, Israel persists in its attempts to forcibly displace Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem, including in Silwan, Wadi Qaddum, Sheikh Jarrah and other neighborhoods. **As documented by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), “in East Jerusalem, one third of Palestinian homes are at risk of demolition”** and Israeli laws effectively **prohibit Palestinians from building in about 85% of the City**.

All such actions constitute grave breaches against protected persons in an occupied territory. These are war crimes, and the pretexts being used by the occupying Power are offensive and reflective of its total contempt for the rule of law and human rights. **It is blatantly obvious that Israel’s intention is to clear the land so that it can proceed with its illegal settlement colonization and annexation plans**. We urge the international community to act forthwith to pressure Israel to cease all of these illegal measures against the Palestinian civilian population. We remind once again: **Israel is not the sovereign in any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and has no rights whatsoever to impose its control and laws on our people and land**. Such sovereignty rests only in the Palestinian people and the State of Palestine, in accordance with international law and the relevant UN resolutions.

The international community, foremost the Security Council, must act to uphold international law and bring a halt to this destructive impunity. **Only such collective action – with real measures of accountability – can protect civilian lives, end this illegal Israeli colonial occupation and apartheid regime, including its inhumane and deplorable 15-year blockade of Gaza, and finally enable the Palestinian people to realize their freedom, rights and dignity that they are being unjustly denied**, for more than 74 years since the Nakba and 55 years since the onset of the Israeli occupation in 1967.

This letter is in follow-up to our 757 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 June 2022 (A/ES-10/904-S/2022/\_\_\_) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, 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 text of the present letter made available to the members of the Security Council for their immediate, valuable consideration and also distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

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



Dr. Riyad Mansour  
Minister, Permanent Observer

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