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**Letter dated 20 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you, concerning the recent developments in the occupied Palestine territories (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Amir Saeid **Iravani**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative

**Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing to you to express my deepest concerns about the current situation in Palestine and the criminal acts being carried out by the Quds-occupying regime in violating the rights of the residents of Palestine, particularly in the West Bank. During the past several months, most notably since the beginning of the year, the defenceless Palestinians have suffered from excessive violence, suppression and terror by illegal Israeli settlers and armed forces. Such violent and criminal acts include detaining and assassinating civilians, killing and martyring 100 Palestinians (including 2l children), imprisoning almost 5,000 Palestinians (including 31 women and 170 children who are being arbitrarily and illegally imprisoned in Zionist Israeli jails and being subjected to the most inhumane treatment), blockading cities, destroying and confiscating properties, farmlands and houses, and forcibly evicting their residents. These atrocious crimes, which are only a small part of the widespread and systematic violations of the fundamental human rights of the defenceless people of Palestine by the Zionist regime, are illegitimate, unacceptable, and constitute a flagrant violation of the established principles and norms of human rights and international law. Such criminal and barbaric acts are vehemently rejected and abhorred by the international community and global public opinion. In this respect, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the Israeli regime’s suppression of and violent acts against the people of Palestine and considers such egregious violations of the human rights of Palestinians, including their inalienable right to life and their right to self-determination, as a clear example of apartheid.

The Zionist regime is abusing the global attention on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, as well as the silence and inaction of human rights bodies and global Powers on protecting the rights of the oppressed people of Palestine, to further its oppression. Indeed, double standards and the silence of some Member States and international organizations have emboldened Israel to escalate such barbaric actions that violate the basic human rights law and international humanitarian law of the Palestinians. These circumstances highlight the necessity of urgent and decisive action by the international community to fulfil its duty of supporting the people of Palestine against the apartheid and occupation of Zionists in the occupied territories. In this respect, I believe that the United Nations, as well as other relevant international organizations and human rights machinery, must place on their immediate agenda the addressing of the current situation in occupied Palestine.

The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that sustainable peace and justice in the region can only be achieved by fully ending the occupation of Palestine, by the return of all Palestinian refugees to their rightful homeland and by a determination of the future Palestinian system through a public and fair referendum held among the original inhabitants of Palestine, including all Muslims, Christians and Jews, and ultimately the formation of an independent and integrated government in Palestine with Holy Quds as its capital on the basis of the plan registered by the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Secretariat on 1 November 2019 as document S/2019/862.

In light of the foregoing, I would like to ask that you condemn and denounce the atrocities and terrorist acts committed by the apartheid Israeli regime against the oppressed people of Palestine, in compliance with the human and ethical obligations of the United Nations, as well as in accordance with international and human rights principles and norms. Additionally, I ask that immediate and appropriate measures be taken in your authority and capacity under the Charter of the United Nations to put an end to the crimes committed by this apartheid regime and to ensure that those responsible for such heinous and brutal crimes are held accountable.

Without a doubt, we all bear a moral and international responsibility for the oppression and crimes perpetrated against the people of Palestine. In these difficult circumstances, history and the nation of Palestine will judge our actions. May we place ourselves on the right side of history?

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|  |  | (*Signed*) Hossein **Amir-Abdollahian**  Minister of Foreign Affairs  of the Islamic Republic of Iran |

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