Foreign affairs ministry calls on ICC to stop escalating Israeli violence

January 17, 2018

Wafa News

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Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Riyad al-Malki Wednesday called on the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, to prevent the continuation and perpetuation of Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people.

On the three-year anniversary of the opening of the preliminary examination in the situation in Palestine, al-Malki dispatched a letter to Bensouda pointing her attention to the recent escalation of violence by Israeli occupation forces in their implementation of unlawful colonial policies and practices in the past month, including the unlawful killing of 16 Palestinians and the injury of approximately 3000 and detention of 720, including 184 children.

The letter provided details of the case of the unlawful arrest, transfer and detention of 16 year-old girl, Ahd Tamimi during a raid on her home in Nabi Saleh, on December 19 in violation of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child and against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Fourth Geneva Convention and amounting to crimes under the Rome Statute.

Al-Malki said these wide spread and systematic practices form an integral part of the system of oppression and racism that the Israeli government employs against the Palestinian people.

“Ahd’s case merely serves as further proof of well-established Israeli policies of severe and discriminatory deprivation of fundamental rights of Palestinians,” he added.

Al-Malki requested, that the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) states its position regarding the incessant violence being committed against Palestinians, in line with the established practice of the OTP in this regard.

He further requested the OTP to call upon all Israeli officials and forces to desist from any actions in respect of children that may amount to a violation of Israel’s obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, and which furthermore may constitute a crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.