



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/8478  
21 October 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Twenty-sixth session  
Agenda item 40

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI  
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION  
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Letter dated 21 October 1971 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories dated 5 October 1971 (A/8389 and Corr.1) and to attach herewith a copy of the statement made today by the Jordan Mission to the United Nations concerning that report.

I have the honour to request that this letter and the attached statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Baha Ud-Din TOUKAN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Statement by the Permanent Mission of Jordan to  
the United Nations in connexion with the report  
presented by the Special Committee to Investigate  
Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of  
the Population of the Occupied Territories

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories has issued its second report to the General Assembly (A/8389 and Corr.1).

The report is a factual, objective and courageous disclosure of Israeli practices in the territories occupied in consequence of the 1967 Israeli war of aggression against three States Members of the United Nations.

The distinguished members of the Committee deserve highest praise for carrying out a difficult assignment, made doubly more difficult by Israel's adamant and illegitimate refusal to permit the Committee to carry out its thankless task on the scene of the continuing tragedy of scores of thousands of innocent victims - young boys and girls - lingering in Israeli jails, concentration encampments and torture chambers. While the report of the Committee will be the subject of intensive and detailed scrutiny at the appropriate time and in the appropriate Committee during the current twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, it is felt imperative to draw the attention of the United Nations and, through it, of world public opinion, to the following salient points in the light of Israel's callous attempts to throw aspersions on the Committee's humanitarian mission even before Member States have had the opportunity to study it.

First, the very fact that the occupation State has seen fit to renounce obligations under the appropriate Geneva conventions and the explicit resolutions of the General Assembly aimed at safeguarding the elemental rights of the victims of wanton occupation is proof, if proof is needed, that serious and obnoxious practices are being inflicted upon victims of the occupation which the Israeli authorities are anxious to keep undisclosed.

Second, the attempt by Israel to maintain a conspiracy of silence over its ruthless and inhuman treatment of the peoples of the occupied territories is an exercise in futility no matter how hard the effort, how ingenious the means. The reason is simple: the hush-hush over acts perpetrated by the Israeli

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occupation authorities could just succeed, though for a while, when such acts involve an individual or scores of individuals. But when the victims of such inhuman acts involve a whole population and, in particular, thousands of young men and women lingering in jails for years, the task becomes impossible, the effort in vain.

There is already available massive evidence of inhuman treatment, persecution and physical and mental torture. Not only are the names of the victims known but also the names and personalities of those engaged in these sadistic practices. The day will surely come when their acts are fully brought to light by those who have suffered them. The cases cited by the Committee will then appear as chicken-feed when compared with the full disclosures of what is happening to the victims of organized and deliberate vandalism.

Third, the invidious comparison which Israel is attempting to portray between the plight of the victims of the Israeli occupation and those of other areas of conflict with much greater conglomeration of peoples is ominous indeed, because of its failure to grasp one of the most fundamental values of civilization, namely, the inherent worth of the human individual per se. It is little consolation, in civilized human terms, if the number of victims in Israeli-occupied territories is counted in the tens of thousands, while in more populous areas it could be in the hundreds of thousands. And after all, even in numerical and proportional terms the number of victims suffering persecution, torture and dispersal as a result of Israel's occupation in a population of close to two million people would parallel tens of millions of victims in more populous areas of the world.

Fourth, an equally ominous attitude on the part of Israel is the thesis which runs as follows: we, namely Israel, are not the only sinners in the world, so why not look elsewhere and leave us alone?

Mrs. Golda Meir said as much in attempting to justify annexation of occupied Arab lands. In attempting to befoul the report of the Committee a similar vein is equally discernible.

The challenge to the United Nations and to the world is to prove to Israel that two or more wrongs do not make a right, that the world is determined that wrong shall not be tolerated whether perpetrated by Israel or anyone else. This

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is the only course to maintain if the United Nations is to preserve the integrity and the mission which brought it into being.

Fifth, the Israelis are correct in stating that they have not inflicted any death penalties on the victims of the occupation. They are certainly too subtle to do that. But, there are other ways of achieving the same objective without bearing the onus of international condemnation - people who die mysteriously in prison cells, people shot dead while allegedly trying to escape and, last but not least, young men and women who become partially or permanently incapacitated as a result of their prison ordeals. So why outright executions?

Sixth, the Israelis boast that close to one hundred thousand Arabs have visited the occupied territories in the current year. The people they refer to are Jordanians who for years have been toiling outside their country in order to support their parents, brothers and sisters who stand in need of such assistance. The Israeli occupation of the West Bank has resulted, among other things, in cutting off those people from their dearest and nearest relatives.

The Israelis, instead of terminating their occupation and allowing at least the 1967 displaced persons to rejoin their families in accordance with repeated United Nations resolutions, expect the world to warmly applaud their generosity in allowing those human beings to live in their own houses and see their nearest kin for a period in most cases not exceeding one month.

Is it not more appropriate that the Israelis be reminded that those hapless victims should have the inalienable right to visit their homes and relatives as of right and not of sufferance?

The Mission of Jordan offers the distinguished Committee all the commendation which it has rightfully earned by living up to its obligations under the Charter and above all by heeding the call of their own impeccable integrity and conscience.

21 October 1971

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