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LETTER DATED 26 OCTOBER 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward the enclosed letter from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations concerning the Israeli military authorities' attempt to coerce faculty members of Al Najah and Bethlehem Universities into signing a political statement in order to be able to renew their work permits. The Israeli authorities also deported Dr. Munzer Salah, President of Al-Najah University in Nablus, which is part of the Israeli occupation policies which aim at undermining the academic process in the occupied Palestinian territories and liquidating Palestinian academic institutions.

I request, Your Excellency, that this letter and the attached letter from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 22 October 1982 from the Permanent Observer of
the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions of Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, I am requested to bring the following information to your most urgent attention vis-à-vis our note verbale of 13 September 1982, in which you were informed that the Israeli military authorities were attempting to coerce faculty members of Al Najah and Bethlehem Universities into signing a political statement in order to be able to renew their work permits.

The Israeli authorities yesterday deported Dr. Munzer Salah, President of Al-Najah University in Nablus. The Israeli action is part of the occupation policies which aim at undermining the academic process in the occupied Palestinian territories and liquidating Palestinian academic institutions.

Dr. Salah refused to sign a statement which would have disassociated him from his national commitments, which would have recognized the right of the occupation authorities to intervene in the academic process and to undermine Palestinian academic institutions.

Both the academic board of the University and the student body denounced the Israeli action, which is a link in a chain of Israeli aggressions against the Palestinian people and their national institutions.

The President of the Board of Trustees of the University, Hekment Masri, commented on the deportation by pointing to the Israeli threat of deporting 28 Al-Najah professors. Fifteen have already been deported since September 1982. Dr. Masri called upon all academic institutions the world over to support Al-Najah University to enable it to perform its academic functions.

Student councils in the occupied West Bank and Gaza have reaffirmed their rejection of Israeli practices against Palestinian academic and national institutions in a press statement. They strongly denounced the deportation of Dr. Salah and other Al-Najah University professors.

We urge that steps be taken to seek the return of the expelled faculty members, for without them the institutions in the occupied territories will be almost paralyzed in terms of their operations for the forthcoming academic year.

(Signed) Zuhdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer
