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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 26 May 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter of 8 May 1969 (A/7551, S/9197) concerning Israeli violations of human rights in the Arab occupied territories, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Israeli Permanent Representative on 14 May 1969 (A/7554, S/9208).

The Israeli letter is typical of rejecting facts by simply alleging their falsehood. The annexes to my above-mentioned letter clearly showed cases of arbitrary arrests, imprisonments and demolition of houses of those arrested on mere suspicion. Many Israeli papers reported these and other incidents.

The arbitrary imprisonment of the three sisters - Randa Nabulsi, Hiba Nabulsi and Saada Nabulsi - and the demolishing of their house were reported in the Israeli paper Haalam Hazeh of 8 April 1969.

Uri Avneri, a member of the Israeli Parliament, reports in the same issue of Haalam Hazeh that about 500 men and women of the city of Nablus alone have been detained in Israeli prisons, some for six months and others for more than a year, without a trial. He expresses the fear that the fate of Kasim Abu Akar Al Tamini, who was tortured to death in Israeli prisons, may befall some of those in Israeli prisons.

Mr. Avneri also reports that twenty-five houses in Nablus were demolished. He points out that the Israeli occupying forces limited themselves at the beginning to demolition of houses in which weapons were found. Later on, houses of many suspects were dynamited before trial of the suspects.

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In its issue of 30 March 1969, Al-Kuds, a newspaper published in occupied Jerusalem, reported that a protest was sent by Ilias Bandack, the Mayor of Bethlehem, to the Israeli Defense Minister, copies of which were sent to the General Military Governor and to the Military Governor of the area against arbitrary destruction of houses of innocent people.

According to the Israeli paper Yadiot Ahranoth of 21 March 1969, on 20 March the Israeli police dynamited the house of the parents of Miss Aida Said, an eighteen-year-old student, located in Gaza. On 14 April 1969 the Israeli paper Haaretz reported that the Israeli Military Court in Gaza sentenced her to twenty years imprisonment.

Michael Adams writing to The Guardian of 26 January 1968 concluded: "I had my ups and downs during four years as a prisoner of war in Germany but the Germans never treated me as harshly as the Israelis are treating the Arabs of Gaza Strip, the majority of whom are women and children."

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

(Signed) Muhammad H. EL-FARRA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
