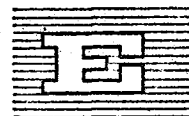


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-second session
Agenda item 4

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TERRITORIES
OCCUPIED AS A RESULT OF HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Note by the Secretariat

By note verbale dated 12 February 1976, addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations Office at Geneva has requested the circulation of the attached material as a document of the Commission.

10 Ahmed Nessim St.,
Giza, Cairo.

3 February 1976

To the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission
of the United Nations
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Arab citizens of the occupied Gaza Strip, some of whom appealed to me for help, I beg to bring to your kind attention the enclosed statement describing the situation of the Arabs living in Gaza who are denied their rights to rejoin their families in Gaza, as illustrated by the few cases mentioned therein.

I do request that you kindly circulate this statement to the Members of the Human Rights Commission now meeting in Geneva with the hope that they can take steps to dissuade Israeli authorities from using their circumscribed tactics to deprive more Arabs from their fundamental rights to their homeland.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Aziza Hussein
Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
Status of Women Commission

Statement by Aziza Hussein, Representative of Egypt to the
United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

PALESTINIAN ARABS IN GAZA DENIED RIGHTS TO REJOIN FAMILIES

In the wake of 1967 occupation of Sinai, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights, the Israeli authorities undertook a general census of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Identity cards were issued to every family indicating the number of persons in each family and their addresses. For the refugees in the camps the identity cards showed their original homes in occupied Palestine from which they have migrated.

Most of the male members of the families living in the Gaza Strip were, at the time, working in various Arab States, leaving their families behind in the Strip. Thus, they were not included in the census carried out by the Israeli occupying authorities. It was not determined whether they, as members of families inhabiting the Gaza Strip, had the right to return whenever they chose to, or whether they retained the right of ownership of their property.

When conditions became relatively secure in the occupied territories and the young felt it was safe enough to return to their families, they began to flock back for summer visits to see their folks. Most of them filed requests to join their families so as to be included as inhabitants of the Strip having the right of re-entry and the right to reclaim their property.

It had been Israel's general policy to grant such requests, except for a few cases involving alleged security risks, especially regarding young men who had just finished their education in Europe. However, for the past two years, it was noted that the tendency has been to limit such permits, as a rule - indeed, to reject them repeatedly in the face of persistent demands.

How long will Soviet or Polish Jews who have no roots in Israel continue to be granted entry and given all facilities during their first five years in Israel - tax deductions, new housing and secure jobs - while the original inhabitants are denied their own citizenship along with their natural rights as human beings to their own homeland with their own identity and dignity? How long will this situation persist whereby Zionist authorities continue to occupy Arab lands and plan for their future while Arab citizens in the occupied territories hold on desperately to the remainder of their usurped land, hoping that justice and mercy will eventually be accorded them by the world community?

Following is a list of cases where Arab people have been denied the right of re-entry to join their families in Gaza.

1. Annah Abu-Ramadan - A sick old woman who cannot walk and who has two daughters in Kuwait. For three years she has been requesting their return to Gaza to live with her. The daughters' husbands do not need jobs as they own some property on which they can live, coupled with that which they have saved in Kuwait. The Israeli authorities have rejected the requests of the two, or even one, of the daughters to return. The mother is in deep despair as she cannot leave the Strip for two reasons: poor health and the fear of losing her property.

2. Haj Freih Farhan Almasdar - Lives at Deir Al - Balah in the occupied territories. Requests permission for the return of his daughter Hakmah, her husband and her children who are now living in Libya.
3. Youssef Farsan Almasdar - Requests permission for his wife, Nawal, an Egyptian, and his five sons and daughters to rejoin him.
4. Al Sayed Ali Suleiman Abu-Zeid - Requests permission for his daughter and her husband, Hassan Suleiman Abu-Zeid, and his family now living in Libya to return.
5. Abdulla Suleiman Moussa Abu-Zeid - Requests permission for his brother, Sudah, Sulsiman Abu-Zeid, and his family now living in Libya to rejoin him.
6. Ali Suleiman Abu Shehadah - Requests permission for his son and his wife, Amnah Salamah Al-Banahein, who now lives in Cairo to rejoin him in Gaza.
7. Freiha Suleiman Al-Banahein - Requests permission for her husband now living in Cairo to return to his home in Gaza.
8. Suleiman Mossleh Al-Beding - Requests permission for his son, Mohammed, now living in Cairo, to return to his home in Gaza.
9. Hajjah Freiha Farhan Almasdar - Requests permission for her daughter Surnah and her husband and children, now living in Libya, to rejoin her.
10. Hanna Dmoud Issa Al-Soury - A Christian Arab of Al-Sori family in Gaza. He works in Saudi Arabia as a male nurse. All members of his family live in Gaza. His mother is old and ill. He has three unmarried sisters and one married brother living separately. The family has applied repeatedly for him to rejoin them, but all requests have been rejected. After many broken promises, the request was rejected for the fourth time.

as reported by Dr. Dalal Rifai
Chief Maternity Division
Gaza Hospital
Gaza.