



**General Assembly**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/40/756  
16 October 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fortieth session  
Agenda item 79

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES  
IN THE NEAR EAST

Protection of Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 39/99 I of 14 December 1984, entitled "Protection of Palestine refugees", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Urges the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to undertake effective measures to guarantee the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestine refugees in all the territories under Israeli occupation in 1967 and thereafter;

"2. Holds Israel responsible for the security of the Palestine refugees in occupied southern Lebanon, and calls upon it to fulfil its obligations as the occupying Power in this regard, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

"3. Calls once again upon Israel, the occupying Power, to release forthwith all detained Palestine refugees, including the employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

"4. Also calls upon Israel to desist forthwith from preventing those Palestinians registered as refugees in Lebanon from returning to their camps in Lebanon;

"5. Further calls upon Israel to allow the resumption of health, medical, educational and social services rendered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to the Palestinians in the refugee camps in southern Lebanon;

"6. Requests the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to co-ordinate his activities in rendering these services with the Government of Lebanon, the host country;

"7. Urges the Commissioner-General to provide housing, in consultation with the Government of Lebanon, to the Palestine refugees whose houses were demolished or razed by the Israeli forces;

"8. Calls once again upon Israel to compensate the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the damage to its property and facilities resulting from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, without prejudice to Israel's responsibility for all damages resulting from that invasion;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its fortieth session, on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 22 March 1985, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, in which he drew attention to his reporting responsibility under the resolution and requested the Permanent Representative to inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged to take in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. In a note verbale dated 12 August 1985, the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations replied as follows:

"In accordance with the Israeli cabinet decision of 14 January 1985, the Israeli Defence Forces completed their withdrawal from southern Lebanon in June 1985, and are now deployed along the international border. The Government of Israel, therefore, deems this resolution as not being relevant. In light of recent developments in several refugee camps in Lebanon, the Government of Israel, however, recommends that this resolution be directed to the Governments of Syria and Lebanon."

4. In previous reports on this subject, the Secretary-General referred to the constraints he had faced in undertaking the measures requested of him by the General Assembly. Nevertheless, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, as the senior United Nations official responsible for providing services to the Palestine refugees, continued his efforts in consultation with the Secretary-General to do

all that was feasible to contribute to the safety and security of the refugees in all the territories under occupation. His efforts on behalf of the Palestine refugees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are described in his annual report; 1/ those made on behalf of refugees in southern Lebanon are described in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present report.

5. It will be recalled that the Palestine refugees in southern Lebanon reside in the vicinity of Saida and Tyre. The Israeli forces withdrew from those areas in February and April 1985, respectively. The information contained in the present report, therefore, pertains to the implementation of the resolution in those areas up to the dates of the Israeli withdrawal.

6. While UNRWA is not informed of every incident involving Palestine refugees, its field office in Lebanon has reported the following:

(a) In southern Lebanon as a whole from July 1984 to the end of February 1985 (when Israeli forces withdrew from the Saida area): 51 violent deaths, 27 explosions and 2 kidnappings;

(b) In the Tyre area in March and April 1985 (when the Israeli forces withdrew): 6 violent deaths and 5 explosions.

UNRWA officials drew the attention of the Israeli military authorities to such incidents and, when necessary, lodged protests, with a view to having them investigated and to reminding the Israeli authorities of their responsibility for the safety and security of the civilian population.

7. On 28 February 1985, UNRWA addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel expressing deep concern about the security of Palestine refugees in southern Lebanon. It pointed out that UNRWA had been obliged at times to close its schools in the Tyre area to avoid possible injury from stray bullets and requested that adequate and urgent steps be taken to prevent further incidents of this nature. UNRWA also referred to difficulties encountered in moving personnel and supplies through Israeli checkpoints. It pointed out that, on 14 February 1985, it had been unable to transport six Palestine refugees needing haemodialysis treatment from Tyre to Saida, and that its officials continued to have difficulty in obtaining access to Israeli military officials in a position to deal with problems of this kind.

8. The three staff members of UNRWA referred to in last year's report (A/39/538, para. 11) as still being under detention by the Israeli authorities were released in July 1985. Earlier in the year, three other staff members of UNRWA serving in southern Lebanon were arrested by the Israeli authorities but were released after brief periods of detention.

9. With regard to the resumption of services to Palestine refugees in southern Lebanon, the Commissioner-General has supplied the following information:

(a) UNRWA continued to provide education, health and relief services to Palestine refugees to the extent that circumstances permitted;

(b) UNRWA was obliged to close its schools in the Tyre area in February 1985. They were reopened on 6 May;

(c) Continuing disturbances throughout the area and delays at checkpoints of the Israel Defence Forces and local forces armed and controlled by them adversely affected access to UNRWA clinics and subsidized hospitals, although these facilities continued to operate. The transportation of patients from southern Lebanon to the American University Hospital in Beirut was not possible until the withdrawal of the Israeli military forces;

(d) UNRWA's relief programme in southern Lebanon was maintained despite difficulties encountered in obtaining regular passage of supplies from Beirut.

10. To the extent feasible, the Commissioner-General co-ordinated with the Government of Lebanon the rendering of services to the Palestine refugees in the areas occupied by Israel. UNRWA also continued to provide assistance to refugees to enable them to repair damage to their shelters.

11. There has been no progress on the claim by UNRWA against the Government of Israel regarding damage to its property and facilities resulting from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 (see A/39/538, para. 13).

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A.40/13). See, in particular, paras. 164 to 170.

-----