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QUESTION OF PALESTINE  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 October 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of  
the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement made on 9 October 1990 by the representative of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the massacre by the Israeli occupation forces of Palestinian civilians on the esplanade of the Al-Aqsa holy mosque.

I should be grateful if you would have this text and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 23 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amar BENDJAMA  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement made on 9 October 1990 by the spokesman for the  
Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs

It is with grief and respect that the entire Algerian nation pays tribute to the memory of the latest martyrs to the Palestinian cause, the innocent Palestinians who were victims of the organized killing at the Al-Aqsa mosque, the third holy place of Islam.

This is a premeditated killing, a source of revulsion to the Arab and Islamic peoples, making yet another claim upon the conscience of mankind in the long series of crimes committed daily by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people in its occupied homeland.

To accuse the victims of the Al-Quds carnage of trying to deflect attention from the Gulf crisis is to display utter cynicism and arrogance.

The fact that the endeavour to eliminate the Palestinian people has been able to proceed with impunity is due in part to the proven inability of the Arab world to resolve its differences and to close ranks in defence of the sacred Palestinian cause. It is also due to the Zionist leaders' belief that they can count on the passivity or powerlessness of one part of the international community, while retaining confidence in the benign complacency or powerful support of another part of that community.

Algeria urges the Security Council to mobilize United Nations efforts and resources to protect Palestinian civilians as a matter of the utmost urgency and, once and for all, to ensure the implementation of United Nations resolutions for a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question.

At a time when the emergence of a new international political order based on co-operation within the United Nations to promote the right of States and of peoples has become the focus of attention, at precisely that point in time when the United Nations is making intensive efforts to ensure the implementation of the resolutions relating to the Gulf crisis, the Al-Quds tragedy affords the Security Council the opportunity to give tangible proof of a common, sincere and resolute will to ensure that respect for international law will prevail universally and without exception.

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