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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-third session
Agenda items 4, 9 and 12

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO
PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN
ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER
DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Note verbale dated 13 February 1987 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Commission on Human Rights, transmitting a letter dated 13 February 1987 from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations in Geneva ... encloses herewith, on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization in its capacity as an observer in the Commission on Human Rights, a document with the request that it be considered as an official document of the Commission to be distributed at the earliest convenience due to the importance of its contents as indicated.

*/ Reissued for technical reasons.

Annex

LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR THE
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT
GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The forces which have been surrounding and besieging the Palestinian refugee camps of Burj-El-Barajneh, Sabra and Shatila in Beirut and the camp of Rashidiyeh in South Lebanon for 136 days, and which have been fighting against our Palestinian people in these camps, are disregarding all appeals coming from all over the world, to cease their aggression and siege.

Moreover, the Israeli forces have started shelling the Palestinian refugee camps near Saïda in South Lebanon; at this very moment, the camps of Miyeh-Miyeh and Ein-El-Hilweh in South Lebanon are under heavy shelling by the Israeli air forces.

Our Palestinian people in all these camps are facing death and famine; food supplies and medicine are not allowed to enter the camps, and tens of people die due to lack of food and medical care. The inhabitants of the camps eat dogs, cats, rats and even the remains of martyrs to survive, as has been shown on television throughout the world. Injured people cannot be evacuated; they die due to lack of medical assistance; even the hospitals are attacked.

We wish to draw the attention of the Commission on Human Rights to the fact that, in disregard of international will and of the appeals of all international humanitarian bodies, these forces are launching a genocide war against our Palestinian people in Lebanon.

We, hereby, kindly request you to consider this memorandum as an official document of the forty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights and distribute it as such to the delegates to the Commission, under items 4, 9 and 12 of its agenda.

(Signed) Nabil RAMLAWI
Representative and Permanent Observer for
the Palestine Liberation Organization