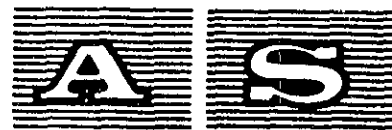


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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-fourth session
Item 51 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF
THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 2 April 1979 from the Permanent
Representative of Jordan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose the statement issued by the University of Beir Zeit on the inhumane and vicious practices of the Zionist occupation authorities in the Arab land of Palestine. This statement (annex I) and the chronological events that took place on 12 March 1979 (annex II) show without doubt that the Zionist régime in Tel Aviv continues to follow its savage policy of systematic harassment of the Arab educational communities and their institutions in occupied Arab Palestinian land, namely, the West Bank.

Once more, I call upon Your Excellency to do what you possibly can to stop and put an end to Zionist acts of systematic terrorism and harassment that disrupt and intimidate Arab educational institutions in the occupied West Bank of Jordan.

I kindly request that this letter and the enclosed statement of the 12-hour Zionist terrorism be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 51 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/34/50.

ANNEX I

Statement by the University of Beir Zeit issued
on 12 March 1979

The University of Beir Zeit declares today, 12 March 1979, as a day of strike to protest Israeli acts of violence which took place yesterday, including the storming of the university campus, firing at unarmed students and seriously wounding four of them, and imposing a curfew on the town. In addition, the military authorities applied collective punishment on the civilian inhabitants of the town and created among them an atmosphere of terror.

We believe that the show of excessive force is unexcusable and also illogical. The entering of the town by more than a hundred Israeli soldiers, led by the Military Governor himself, the firing at the students in a peaceful political demonstration and the herding of the male inhabitants into the courtyard of the church have only contributed to inflaming the situation.

The perpetuation of such acts against other educational institutions in the West Bank, at the time when the President of the United States, Mr. Carter, was visiting Jerusalem, indicates that what the occupation authorities had perpetrated is part of a calculated policy and not just sporadic acts by the soldiers.

Moreover, the creation of such an atmosphere of violence and suppression will drive away the chances of a just settlement in the area and violates the human rights of the Palestinian people.

We demand that an over-all investigation of the incident be carried out. Those Israeli officials responsible for the violence should be brought to justice and such acts of terror be stopped forthwith.

ANNEX II

Chronological account of the events that took place
on 12 March 1979

9:30 a.m.

A military checkpoint was set up on the Beir Zeit-Ramallah road. The soldiers turned back, by the use of force, people who were coming to Beir Zeit from Ramallah.

10:00 a.m.

The student body of the university held a meeting at the Meeting Hall to discuss the events surrounding the visit of President Carter.

10:30 a.m.

A group of university students and students from a high school in the town marched in a peaceful demonstration of protest in the streets of Beir Zeit. A group of Israeli soldiers were watching from a distance without interfering in the demonstration.

11:45 a.m.

Sporadic gunshots were heard in the town, but caused no injuries.

12:30 p.m.

A while after the demonstration ended, the Israeli soldiers opened fire on a number of people standing in one of the main streets of Beir Zeit, hitting four of them in the back; three of them were taken to Ramallah Hospital and the fourth was taken to Hadassah Hospital. They are:

1. Fayeg Muhammad Ali, a student at Beir Zeit University. He was injured in the neck and seriously wounded in the jaw.
2. Maher Lutfy Abed el-Sayeh, a student from the town; sustained serious injuries in the cheek.
3. Sami Abed El-Rahman, sustained serious injuries in the cheek.
4. Hassan Muhammad Ali, a student from Beir Zeit, had cheek injuries, and one of his lungs was injured as well.

Meanwhile, six truck-loads of armed soldiers entered the town accompanied by a number of high-ranking officers.

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1:00 p.m.

Dr. Gaby Baramky, the Vice-President of the university, went to meet with the officers to inquire about the gunfire. He was told that the soldiers were responding to gunfire from the demonstrators. They ordered Dr. Baramky to return to the university and to make everybody inside it stay in it.

1:30 p.m.

The army announced by loudspeaker from the town mosque the imposition of a curfew and warned that any citizen violating the curfew would risk his life.

2:00 p.m.

The soldiers questioned four university teachers at the gate of Ramallah Hospital. They asked them if they were journalists and allowed only two of them to enter and sent the other two away in a rough manner. After a heated argument the soldiers took their passports and did not return them before 6 o'clock in the evening.

Meanwhile the military authorities ordered the transfer of the four injured persons to Hadassah Hospital, an act which appeared to have been taken in order to prevent journalists from entering the hospital to take a look at the injured students. The doctors in the hospital refused the transfer of Mr. Hassan Muhammad Ali because his injuries were very serious; the others were actually transferred.

2:15 p.m.

General Benjamin Ben Elizar, the Military Governor General of the West Bank, summoned Dr. Baramky to the post office of Beir Zeit, which had been transformed into a temporary military headquarters, and informed him that the curfew would be lifted in an hour and movement between Beir Zeit and Ramallah would be permitted, if all was quiet.

3:10 p.m.

The army, by the use of loudspeakers, ordered all male citizens over 14 years of age to gather at the courtyard of the town's Catholic church. The identity cards of the citizens were examined; in addition, the citizens were forced to sit on the ground while some of them were interrogated. The houses of the town were being searched for men who might have stayed behind. During the search the soldiers beat a number of women while the students and teachers of Beir Zeit were still on the university campus.

3:30 p.m.

An Israeli doctor from Hadassah Hospital arrived at the hospital of Ramallah to

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decide on the transfer of the injured student to Hadassah. Having barely examined the injured, the doctor decided upon his transfer. After two hours of discussion between those present and the family of the injured on one side and the Israeli doctor and the military officers on the other, the transfer of the injured student was postponed awaiting a decision of the legal adviser of the military rule.

3:40 p.m.

In Beir Zeit the university Vice-President tried to see the Military Governor in the church but could not find him. He went to the post office and was told to keep the students on campus awaiting instructions.

5:10 p.m.

The Military Governor summoned Dr. Baramky to the post office and for the second time informed him that the curfew would be lifted in an hour or two "if everything went as desired", and that he would inform him of that. He assured Dr. Baramky that there was no need to trouble himself in arranging sleeping facilities for 400 students, teachers and employees on the university campus. He said he would not prevent the girl students from going between the dormitories and the university cafeteria, assuring him that the army would not enter the university campus "this time".

6:30 p.m.

A while after he returned from his meeting with the Military Governor, Dr. Baramky met eight soldiers who entered the university campus. When he informed them of their commander's orders, they replied with insolence and refused to leave for some time, while the movement of the girl students between the cafeteria and the dormitories continued to be prevented.

8:30 p.m.

The adviser to the Military Governor of the West Bank, Ygal Carmen, informed the City Council of Ramallah, which was meeting to deal with the situation, that the curfew was lifted at Beir Zeit and that the worried families could go there to bring the students and the teachers out.

9:00 p.m.

About 50 cars arrived at Beir Zeit from Ramallah but were turned back and their drivers were treated violently by the soldiers who were checking the identities of the incoming people on the road to town. The soldiers told them that they still had orders to prevent anyone from coming into or going out of Beir Zeit.

9:30 p.m.

The students and the faculty of Beir Zeit saw the town citizens leaving the courtyard of the church to return to their homes and only then did they know that the curfew was lifted.
