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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 30 July 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 bring to your attention the following episode concerning a violation of basic human rights by the Israeli occupation authorities in flagrant violation of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 1/ and commonly accepted human behaviour.

Tale of two cities and a last wish denied

Dr. Yassir Amer is one of the most accomplished orthopaedic surgeons in Amman, Jordan. But in addition to his professional skills, he is friendly, humane and totally dedicated to serving those among his fellow countrymen most in need. He would refuse to charge medical fees to those who cannot afford them, and does so quietly and without mention. He has a wide circle of friends, not only in Jordan but also among members of the community of orthopaedic surgeons in the United States, with whom, prior to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, he co-operated in a programme for selfless service for those most in need.

Dr. Yassir Amer hails from Hebron in the occupied West Bank from a highly respected family. About two months ago, the health of his ailing 80-year-old mother who lives in Hebron and separated from her only son, to whom he meant all

* A/34/150.

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 257.

that ephemeral life could mean, started to wane, to the point where imminent death became a virtual certainty. Her kidneys were rapidly failing and the doctors gave her one month to live.

She was fully cognizant of the fact and was unfearful of coming to the end of her life's journey. But she only had one overwhelming wish before imminent death. She wanted to see her only son, Dr. Yassir Amer, whom she had loved and reared, his father having died when he was mellow of age.

Numerous people interceded on her behalf with the military governor of Hebron to secure a visit by her son to his native Hebron, to fulfil his mother's and his own wish, to bid her farewell to eternity. But all the efforts and intercessions went in vain. Dr. Amer's mother died a few weeks later, a broken-hearted mother, which one cannot but assume must have given the sadistic military governor and his equally sadistic superiors the pleasure which derives from degraded and dehumanized characters.

When Dr. Amer's mother died and the Israeli military occupation became satisfied that she was verily dead, they passed on a message through the Red Cross to Dr. Amer that he could attend her funeral, which gesture of such needless magnanimity he declined.

When I visited his home in Amman three weeks ago to pay my condolences, Dr. Amer said to me:

"Life and death are ordained. I accept my mother's death with deep sorrow; but what I shall never forget as long as I live is the callous brutality of refusing a dying woman her only and most cherished wish: a final glance at her son. Is the United Nations, which celebrates every year the Declaration of Human Rights, aware of such inhumanity?"

I would not have singled out this episode for mention were it not generic and an eye-opener, if one were needed, of what Israeli occupation really is to a whole people in terms of human suffering by the victims of occupation and the unspeakable degradation and dehumanization which have befallen the occupiers.

I kindly request, Your Excellency, that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 51 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative