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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL Forty-third year

Letter dated 1 February 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Arab States for the month of February 1988, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 February 1988, addressed to you by Mr. Zehdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Question of Palestine", "The situation in the Middle East" and "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories", and of the Security Council.

(<u>Signed</u>) Karim Ebrahim AL-SHAKAR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 1 February 1988 from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith an urgent appeal from Palestinian and Arab writers and journalists (see appendix).

(<u>Signed</u>) Zehdi Labib TERZI Permanent Observer

APPENDIX

Letter dated 30 January 1988 from Palestinian and Arab writers and journalists based in Cyprus to the Secretary-General

We, the undersigned Palestinian and Arab writers and journalists based in Cyprus, appeal to you to intervene immediately to halt Israel's brutality and repressive measures against the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories.

Waves of random killing of innocent and unarmed civilians, together with long food and medical blockades, have been continuing for seven weeks now, with no sight of an end in the coming days, despite great efforts by the international community to this effect.

Loss of life has become a potential threat to every man, woman and child in the occupied Palestinian territories. After being deprived of their national and human rights, Palestinian civilians under occupation have come to the point of losing their very right to life. The beating up of Palestinians, of both sexes and all ages, by Israeli soldiers has severely shocked the civilized world's conscience. The widely practised policy of smashing civilians' bones will go down in history as the Zionist State's invention and contribution to modern times. Such Israeli policies contravene the United Nations Charter and international conventions, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention regulating the behaviour of an occupying Power in the territories it occupies.

Journalist and press institutions have been no exception to the Israeli violence inflicted on the Palestinian people. Scores of journalists have been served with administrative detention and house-arrest orders on emergency-law basis. Palestinian papers and publications have been issued with military distribution bans for lengthy periods, with an eye to silencing Palestinian voices exposing to local and international public opinion Israel's outrageous tyranny and repression.

Our colleagues in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are thus prevented from carrying out their professional, national and human duties.

A just and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause, which is the core of the Middle East conflict, is essential to world peace. Any such solution should guarantee the legitimate national rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people; in the forefront of which are their right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent State on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their own self-opted, and internationally recognized, sole legitimate representative.

Meanwhile, and in the light of Israel's ongoing atrocities in the occupied territories, we appeal to you to fully exercise the United Nations powers invested in you as Secretary-General to provide international protection for our people under occupation, and to urge various United Nations agencies and specialized bodies, as well as the international forum's member-States, to join efforts to safeguard Palestinian lives, holy places and property.

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The United Nations Security Council, currently debating the situation in the light of your report, has the obligation before the world to see that its resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) are respected and implemented by Israel. Israel's neglect of world opinion and defiance of the said Security Council resolutions presents the United Nations with the challenge of proving whether it possesses the tools to implement its resolutions. Sanctions, for which we believe the time has become ripe, are the proper international leverage to enforce upon Israel respect for the international will, ceasing its oppression against the Palestinian people and withdrawing its troops from Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

Signed by the following Palestinian and Arab writers and journalists based in Cyprus

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