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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.

(Signed) Karim Ebrahim AL-SHAKAR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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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 a letter from the Union of Workers in the Field of Education in the Occupied Territories (see appendix).

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer

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APPENDIX

Letter dated 31 January 1988 from the Union of Workers in the
Field of Education in the Occupied Territories addressed to
the Secretary-General

Not content with rejecting successive resolutions of the United Nations requesting that the injustices suffered by the Palestinian people should cease and that that people should be able to enjoy all its national rights, the Israeli leaders resort to barbarous methods to curb the children of the Palestinian people and quell their current uprising against the occupation. The powerful wave of popular indignation against the repressive action officially decided by the Israeli Cabinet has swept through all segments of our people - children, youth, women and the old - as your envoy to the occupied territories was able to observe without difficulty, even though the occupation authorities did not facilitate his task or permit him to converse with the representatives of our Palestinian people concerning the daily practices of the occupation forces responsible for quelling the uprising of our people. In the course of the repressive action, the occupation forces have used firearms and tear-gas grenades, tens of martyrs have fallen and hundreds of persons have been injured. The occupation authorities initiated a series of deportations outside national territory and of collective and arbitrary arrests of thousands of persons, whose trials were a travesty, hastily conducted and not in keeping with any of the legal texts and principles, and they finally resorted to clubbing and breaking the bones of hundreds of the children of our defenceless people. Moreover, all the educational establishments have been closed for more than a month.

We, the Union of Workers in the Field of Education in the Occupied Territories, are convinced that your active intervention would lead to the effective use of United Nations capabilities to put an end to the injustice suffered by the Palestinian people, to support the demands arising from its current uprising and to back its struggle to establish an independent State under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The action open to you because of your contacts at the international level will help to exert greater pressure on the occupation authorities so as to induce them to end forthwith the barbarous practices of their forces. This means the withdrawal of those forces from the cities, camps and villages; the release of all the persons arrested in the course of the uprising; the repeal of all emergency laws, which are antiquated, and especially of all deportation measures; action to prohibit the desecration of religious sanctuaries, the entry into educational establishments and the premises of trade unions and other associations and the ordering of their closing; action to prevent the occupation authorities from intervening in the internal affairs of those associations; and the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.