

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/95
20 February 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
Items 12 and 51 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

Letter dated 13 February 1979 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text (in Arabic) of the message which Mr. Boutros B. Ghali, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, has transmitted to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights concerning the violations of human rights by the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter and the enclosed message circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" and "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories".

(Signed) Nabil A. ELARABY
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 February 1979 from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I am sending you this urgent letter in the hope that the Commission on Human Rights will examine its contents promptly and take decisive action on it.

The gravity of the situation in the occupied Arab territories has obliged me to draw your attention and the attention of the members of the distinguished Commission on Human Rights at its current session to the numerous reports indicating continuing deterioration in conditions in these territories, as a result of the insistence of the Israeli occupation authorities on pursuing further their arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people and persisting in grave violations of human rights in these territories, with a view to changing their legal status and geographical structure and the composition of their population. This constitutes a gross violation of the international conventions in force and, in particular, the fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War a/ and their rights under occupation.

In this connexion, I wish to draw attention to the reports published recently concerning the torture of Arab detainees in Israeli prisons. These reports have reached such proportions that they cannot be passed over in silence. They have become outstanding evidence of the cruelty of Israeli occupation and indicate the degree of suffering experienced by the Palestinian people. The most recent of these reports was that submitted by the United States State Department to Congress.

I would like to point out, in particular, that the Israeli occupation authorities are still continuing to establish settlements and to exercise a policy of colonization in the occupied Arab territories, particularly on the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip. Such action has been rejected by the international community, as represented in the United Nations, and opposed by the Commission on Human Rights in its successive resolutions adopted since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, as being outside the law, illegal and absolutely null and void. While Israel's well-known goal in carrying out these measures is the expansion which has been condemned by the world as a whole, as well as the terrorization of the Palestinian people, a new goal has been added to the list of Israeli goals in this connexion, within the context of Israel's desperate attempts to escape from its obligations under the framework for peace in the Middle East which was arrived at last September.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt views with gravity these Israeli practices and violations and the clear goals underlying them. It regards them as having a far-reaching effect on progress towards peace, presenting a major

a/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

impediment thereto and constituting a gross violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of right and justice.

In view of the gravity and urgency of the situation, the Egyptian Government is confident that the Commission on Human Rights will assume its responsibilities in this matter by taking immediate and effective action on behalf of humanity as a whole, in implementation of human rights principles and in support of the steps so far achieved towards a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

Boutros B. Ghali
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
