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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-sixth session
Item 64 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-sixth year

Letter dated 11 March 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government and further to my letter dated 2 February 1981 (A/36/89-S/14356) and to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Israel, dated 18 February 1981 (A/36/105-S/14376), in which he alleged that my information was without foundation, I have the honour to convey the following information from my Government concerning the persecution of Islamic religious dignitaries in the occupied West Bank.

My Government's message, dated 2 February 1981, reads as follows:

"The Israeli occupation authorities have latterly launched a ruthless campaign against Islamic ulemas (religious leaders) in the occupied territories. The occupation authorities have detained:

- (a) His Eminence Sheikh Muhammad Fuad Abu Zeid, Inspector of Religious Instruction in the northern region of the West Bank;
- (b) Sheikh Yousef Abu 'Assallah, a preacher at the Shari'a Institute in Jerusalem;
- (c) Sheikh Sa'eed Ahmad Belal, the Inspector of Mosques in Nablus;
- (d) Sheikh Jamal 'Attiyya, the Islamic Instructor in the Nablus region;
- (e) Sheikh Tawfiq-al-Kurd, Chairman of the Reform Society in Gaza.

* A/36/50.

"Those and others detained have been subjected to the most brutal forms of persecution and torture. They are being held incommunicado and no one is permitted to see them or inquire about their fate.

"The practices of the Israeli occupation forces against these Islamic ulemas can only be construed as yet a further chain in the Israeli policy of intellectual terrorism and religious persecution, in addition to the many other terrorist acts which the Israeli occupation is perpetrating in other parts of the occupied territories.

"In the light of the above, we request you to submit a message to the esteemed Secretary-General, in the hope that it may lighten the agony of persecution and torture to which they are being subjected, and to dissuade the occupying enemy from the continuance of these tyrannical practices. Awaiting the results of your intercession."

One of the latest incidents, though ostensibly insignificant, was the burning of the car of His Eminence Sheikh Sa'dudeen al-Alami, the Mufti of Jerusalem and chief of the shari'a courts in Jerusalem, as it was parked at night in front of his house in the Bab al-Sahira district. But this act of arson and hooliganism is significant in that it is designed as an act of terror to intimidate religious dignitaries.

It is the earnest hope of my Government that an investigation will be carried out in the occupied territories with a view to eliciting further information on these ominous developments as a prelude to remedial action.

I request you kindly to circulate this message as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 64 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
