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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Cinquante-deuxième session  
Point 4 de l'ordre du jour

QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME DANS  
LES TERRITOIRES ARABES OCCUPES, Y COMPRIS LA PALESTINE

Lettre datée du 26 mars 1996, adressée au Sous-Secrétaire général  
aux droits de l'homme par l'Observateur permanent de la  
Palestine auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

Je vous prie de bien vouloir trouver ci-joint le mémorandum \*/,  
distribué aujourd'hui à la Commission des droits de l'homme, que j'ai adressé  
au Président de la cinquante-deuxième session de la Commission des droits de  
l'homme et aux délégations qui y participent.

Je vous serais très reconnaissant de bien vouloir prendre les  
dispositions voulues pour que ce mémorandum soit considéré comme l'un des  
documents officiels dont la Commission est saisie à sa session en cours.

L'Ambassadeur  
Observateur permanent de la Palestine  
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

(Signé) Nabil RAMLAWI

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\*/ Ce texte est reproduit en annexe tel quel, dans les langues  
originales.

Annex

Referring to my statement before your distinguished Commission on March 19th, 1996, under item 4 of our agenda, Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories, and in view of the continued deterioration of the situation of human rights in this region - ominous of an explosion of incalculable dimensions - I would like to place before you the following facts, hoping your Commission could initiate measures to contain the situation.

First: Israel has continued, for four weeks, to impose collective punishments on over two million Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The measures imposed by Israel include a total military blockade against the Palestinian people and the demolition of Palestinian houses, a matter which has resulted in the death of a number of civilians and which threatens others with a similar fate. In this, Israel violates the principles of International Law, the provisions of International Humanitarian Law, the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the provisions of the International Convention for the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide which, in article 2, considers as a crime of genocide: the deliberate subjection of a group of people to living conditions intended to totally or partially destroy this group.

Second: Once again, Israel has renewed its military occupation of several rural areas from which it had withdrawn under the terms of the Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In this, Israel persists in violating the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force, an act which constitutes a threat to the peace and security of mankind.

Third: Furthermore, Israel has reverted to its policy of deporting Palestinian citizens, violating thus the provisions of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which considers such violations as massive.

Fourth: Israel attached no importance to the terms already agreed upon with the PLO, in this violating its agreements and accords with the PLO.

Fifth: Israel attached no importance to the requests addressed to it by the Palestine National Authority to resume negotiations within the framework of peace process. Currently, no political negotiations are underway.

Sixth: As a result of the continued imposition of collective punishments through a blockade affecting the totality of the Palestinian people, President Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestine National Authority, warned yesterday that the continued Israeli practices, placing the Palestinian people under living conditions aimed at destroying it through hunger and deprivation of food and medicine, will result in a massive explosion whose fallouts will have effects beyond the region.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Heads and Members of Delegation,

On behalf of the besieged Palestinian people, we call upon you to appeal to Israel, on behalf of the Commission on Human Rights, to lift the blockade imposed against the Palestinian people, and to put an end to the destruction of Palestinian houses in order to avert a catastrophe with far reaching humanitarian effects in the region.