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Thirty-sixth session

Item 64 of the provisional agenda*

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 19 August 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the latest Israeli assaults upon institutions of vocational and higher education in the occupied West Bank, flagrantly manifested in the Israeli occupied authorities' brutal assault and closure of the polytechnic institute in the Governorate of Hebron, established by the Association of University Alumni - a charitable society - in the Governorate of Hebron.

This dastardly action and its concomitant attack on teachers and students, as well as the destruction of laboratory equipment which had cost the inhabitants several million dollars, are but another link in a chain of the occupation authorities' all-out efforts to stifle the educational facilities in the occupied territories by all possible means.

The Israelis had assiduously made extensive and calculated efforts to deprive the Palestinians, who remained in Palestine in 1948 in a state of deprivation, in the field of education. Any one knowledgeable about the situation would immediately find a vast disparity in education between the Palestinians presumed to be Israeli citizens and the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Association of University Graduates for the Governorate of Hebron - the Amman branch - presented a memorandum to the Government of Jordan on 27 July 1981, which describes in detail the latest Israeli disruption of the polytechnic college in Hebron.

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Upon instructions from my Government, I have been requested to ask Your Excellency to take the necessary measures with a view to the cessation of these wanton acts by the Israeli military occupation authorities. More specifically, it is to be urged that the following steps be taken without delay:

First, a cessation of these savage assaults and arbitrary measures which are being waged against members of the educational institutions, the premises of these institutions, and the charitable societies in the occupied territories.

Second, the release of those detained in the course of these assaults.

Third, a reopening of the building which had been subjected to the attack with a view to enabling the polytechnic institute to resume its educational mission without interference or hindrance.

Fourth, permitting the Association of University Graduates to construct new premises in accordance with the licence granted to it by the municipality of Hebron.

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the memorandum addressed to the Government of Jordan by the Association of University Graduates for the Governorate of Hebron.

I request that my letter, and the enclosed memorandum in Arabic, be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 64 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Note dated 27 July 1981 from the League of University Graduates
in the Governorate of Hebron, Amman Branch, addressed to the
Government of Jordan

/Original: Arabic/

1. The League of University Graduates in the Governorate of Hebron (a charitable organization) established the Hebron Technical Engineering College in 1977 for the benefit of students in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The College served its students in the best scientific way and was provided with laboratories, workshops and the latest materials and equipment imported from abroad at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dinars.
2. In 1980, the League wanted to construct an additional building to supplement the building of the Technical Engineering College and house the College's laboratories, workshops and some classes on its land in the city of Hebron. It obtained a licence from the Municipality of Hebron, but, when it began to build, the Israeli military authorities halted the construction without any legitimate reason and in spite of the League's application to the Israeli authorities for permission to build. These authorities have so far persisted in the ban.
3. Because of the College's pressing need for a building to house its civil, architectural, electrical and mechanical engineering laboratories and its workshops, it asked the Municipality of Hebron to rent it one of its new buildings. The Municipality agreed and rented one of its buildings to the League. The College moved its laboratory equipment and workshops to this building and began providing practical instruction to its students there.
4. On the morning of 21 July 1981, a military force raided this part of the Technical Engineering College, ejected the students, threw out all the laboratory equipment into the public street, broke and destroyed some of it, drove out the teachers and students and prevented the College Administration from using the building, alleging that it was intended for a school coming under the Directorate of Education in the Governorate of Hebron on the basis of a complaint from the Director of Education in the Governorate, while knowing full well that it was the property of the Municipality and not occupied by students coming under the Directorate of Education in the Governorate and that it had not been in the possession of or occupied by the Directorate, because it was new. The Directorate had already received three buildings for new schools from the Municipality of Hebron.
5. On 22 July 1981, the students of the College exercised their legal right to return to this building, and they began moving the laboratory equipment from the street to the building. The Israeli military authorities immediately attacked, began striking the students and teachers, ejected them from the building by force and threw the laboratory equipment out of the building a second time. This

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laboratory equipment cost hundreds of thousands of dinars. They arrested some of the students and professors, went to the other college building, locked it, drove out the students and teachers who were there and arrested:

- (a) The head of the League of University Graduates, Dr. Adib Al-Qaisi;
- (b) The Director of the Technical Engineering College,
Professor Rabhi Abu Sninah;
- (c) The Director-General of the League of University Graduates,
Mr. Abd al-Rahman Al-Natshah;
- (d) Some of the College students.

All were put in prison and are still there.

6. The head of the Municipality of Hebron contacted the competent Israeli authorities in Hebron concerning this attack and informed them that this building belonged to the Municipality and had been rented by the Municipality to the League, that the Technical Engineering College had received this building legitimately, that the Directorate of Education in the Governorate of Hebron had absolutely no right to these premises and that this action constituted an attack on the Municipality of Hebron, as well as an attack on the League and the College. He called for the release of the detainees and the surrender of the premises to the College. They refused.

I therefore request that this question be raised in the international forums where you have accredited representatives, with condemnation of the above-mentioned arbitrary and barbarous actions and attacks of the Israeli military authorities, and that the following be demanded:

1. A halt to this barbarous assault and arbitrary action against men and institutions of learning and against charitable organizations in the occupied territories;
2. The release of those detained in this criminal episode;
3. The return of the attacked building to the College of Technical Engineering, the reopening of the College and no further obstruction of its pursuit of its task;
4. Permission for the League to erect its new building in accordance with the licence granted it by the Municipality of Hebron.
