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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 18 February 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

Soon after the Israeli occupation authorities' decision of 14 December 1981 to impose Israel's laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, pronounced "null and void" by both the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Israeli military authorities have been speeding up the process of annexation through the use of suppression, terror and harassment. Meanwhile, our heroic nationals under occupation are expressing by all means at their disposal their rejection of the Israeli annexation and their determination to resist, culminating in a general strike started on 12 February 1982. Confronted by this unity and determination to resist, the Israeli military authorities are resorting to acts which violate international law, the Charter of the United Nations and, particularly, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949. 1/

I would like to bring to your immediate attention the following repressive and arbitrary acts perpetrated by the occupying authorities in utter violation of all norms of international law, reminding you of the daily suffering borne by Syrian nationals under a racist expansionist régime:

* A/37/50.

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

1. The arrest and/or imprisonment of a number of leaders, among whom are Sheikh Kamal Kinge Abou-Saleh, Sheikh Mahmoud Safadi, Sheikh Suleiman Kinge Abou-Saleh and his son Kinge Kinge Abou-Saleh, in addition to the arrest and imprisonment of other Syrian nationals, all of whom have demonstrated their active and resolute opposition to annexation;
2. The demolition of houses in the village of Majdal and other villages under the pretext that their owners have not obtained authorization to build these structures;
3. The sealing of a number of stores under the pretext that their owners have not obtained authorization to run them;
4. The confiscation of more lands for the establishment of colonial settlements and the enlargement of existing ones as in the case of the village of Ein-Kenyah and other Syrian Arab lands;
5. The prevention of shepherds from leading their animals to pasture and filling the pools with earth in order to prevent the livestock from drinking;
6. The prevention of the inhabitants of the two villages of Majdal and Mas'aada from completing an irrigation project started by them several years ago;
7. The prohibition of farmers from marketing their crops and denying them the right to acquire agricultural machinery;
8. The levying of prohibitively high taxes on Syrian nationals disproportionate with their income, and the confiscation of their property in case of failure to meet these high taxes;
9. The imposition of prolonged curfews on the inhabitants between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. and the restriction of their movement outside their villages;
10. The prohibition on Syrian nationals under occupation from visiting their relatives in Syria evicted from the Golan since June 1967;
11. The prevention of students awaiting return to Syrian universities to resume their higher education from rejoining their universities;
12. The replacement of the Syrian educational curriculum by that of the occupying Power;
13. The menaces of dismissal and imprisonment addressed to teachers because of their active participation in the general strike started on 12 February 1982;

14. The prohibition of leaders in the Golan Heights from meeting with representatives of international organizations.

Furthermore, I wish to bring to your attention the following statement made by Mr. Mordechai Zippori, Minister for Communications of Israel:

"QIRYAT SHMONA, Israel, Feb. 17 (Reuters) - Communications Minister Mordechai Zippori said today that 'the Golan Heights is ours and anybody who regards himself a Syrian should be allowed, in a democratic fashion, to move to Syria'. He made the statement to reporters in this northern Israeli town after a tour of the heights."

(New York Times, 18 February 1982)

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the preliminary list and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dia-Allah EL-FATTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
