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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 22 March 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 19 March 1982 (A/37/153) concerning the gravity of the situation prevailing in the occupied territories of Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, and the bloodshed which has ensued in consequence of the Israeli occupation authorities' use of firearms against the Palestinian inhabitants following the forcible dissolution of the municipal council in Al Bireh, I have the honour to forward to you two additional letters from Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi, the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization, dated 21 March 1982 (annex I) and 22 March 1982 (annex II).

Inasmuch as the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories remains highly explosive, it would be deeply appreciated if my letter and the enclosed memoranda from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 34 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/37/50.

ANNEX I

Letter dated 21 March 1982 from the Permanent Observer of the
Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by Chairman Yasser Arafat to bring to your attention the following. With reference to my letter of 20 March 1982 concerning the killing of Muhammad Ahmad Sahweil by Israeli troops while he was in his fields in Sinjel. It has now transpired that Muhammad was arrested and tortured by the Israeli S.S. troopers and was followed to the fields where he was fired at and killed. His family buried him. A request was made to investigate the circumstances of the death. On Sunday March 21, Israeli forces desecrated the tomb and carried away the remains without informing the relatives of the martyr.

Today and at 2000 hrs Jerusalem time, Israeli S.S. troopers surrounded the refugee camp of Jalazoun and brutalised Palestinian refugees. They opened fire on the refugees and the following suffered gun-shots and fractures to their legs:

1. Wajdi Al Ramahi
2. Khamis Farraj
3. Muhammad Farrah
4. Saadah Khalil suffered burns as a result of a gas bomb.

In Jerusalem colonial settlers were unleashed to destroy vehicles of Palestinians. Forty such vehicles were demolished.

In Halhoul, Yusef Ahmad Hasan Abu Asbah was wounded by Israeli army bullets.

As a further measure of suppression Palestinians from Ramallah, Al Bireh and Nablus were prevented from crossing the bridge over the River Jordan to return to their homes after visits to Amman. Palestinians living in the three towns were denied permits to cross over to Amman.

In response to the escalated brutality and the continued acts of state-terrorism and oppression and in protest against the imposition of collective punishment and the attempts of systematic annihilation of the Palestinians, the National Institutions and Organizations decided to prolong the General Strike for two more days and to hold General Milson and the occupation authorities fully responsible for the results of their crimes. The Palestinian National Institutions and Organizations reject all attempts to impose the so-called "civilian administration" and uphold their inalienable national rights and declare their solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Zuhdi Labib Terzi
Permanent Observer

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ANNEX II

Letter dated 22 March 1982 from the Permanent Observer of the
Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by Chairman Yasser Arafat to refer to our letters of March 18, 20 and 21 regarding the acts of state-terrorism and brutality committed by the Israeli-Zionist forces of occupation against our Palestinian people, and to bring to your attention the following:

Curfew is still imposed on many Palestinian towns under occupation, including Nablus, Ramallah and Bireh. The Zionist colonial settlers, under armed protection of the Israeli S.S. troopers are breaking into shops closed in observance of the General-Strike.

In the Palestinian refugee camps of Jalazoun, Balata, and Askar, the Israeli S.S. troopers are committing atrocious brutalities.

In Anabta, four persons were injured as a result of Israeli troopers firing.

In Rafah, four students were injured by Israeli bullets and were rushed to Khan Yunis hospital.

In Jerusalem, the General-Strike continues and the Israeli forces of occupation arrested a number of Palestinians.

In Al-Bireh, Israeli S.S. troopers opened machine-gun fire on water-tanks and have planted barbed-wire in the streets. Ramallah received equal barbaric treatment.

The civilian staff of the Municipal Council of Al-Bireh were taken by force from their homes to the premises of the Municipality. They have declared a sit-in and refuse to work, observing the General-Strike.

In relating the above, the Palestine Liberation Organization wishes, once again, to make it clear that such acts of state-terrorism and atrocities should not be permitted to continue. The United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council have a duty and a responsibility and the power to take concrete action. The patience of our people is running thin.

The Security Council, we believe and demand, should meet immediately in order to prevent a further exacerbation in the situation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Zuhdi Labib Terzi
Permanent Observer