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LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1979 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 11 May 1979 from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization addressed to Your Excellency.

I would request you to circulate the enclosure as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdulmohsen EL JEAAN
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of the State
of Kuwait to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 11 May 1979 from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to my letter of 8 May 1979, Security Council document S/13313, regarding the very serious incidents occurring in occupied Palestine, namely, the closure of the Universities at Bir Zeit and Bethlehem, and the Secondary School at Bethlehem, I would like to add further clarification on the events leading to the repressive and provocative tactics of the Israeli occupation authorities and Zionist settlers.

On 2 May 1979, in blatant acts of provocation, Zionist settlers held "independence day" celebrations in Palestinian cities and towns, and hoisted the Israeli flag on Palestinian public buildings. As a result of this malicious provocation, Palestinian students responded by holding peaceful marches through their cities and towns, singing and carrying their Palestinian flag.

At approximately 9.20 a.m. several private automobiles with yellow Israeli licence plates drove through the side streets of Bir Zeit towards the University campus. At 10.15 a.m. two of these vehicles approached the women's dormitory area where students were waiting for their 11.00 class to meet. One of the students Riyadh Nakleh Daoud, was sitting on a bench in front of the dormitory and for no other reason except that he was a Palestinian Arab, was shot in the chest, the bullet barely missing his heart. The assassin was identified by the Israeli military as a prominent Zionist criminal, a certain Ezra Zohar, a member of the fanatical Gush Emunim and professor at Tel ha-Shomer hospital in Tel Aviv.

At 11.05 a.m. four private Israeli automobiles entered Bir Zeit and stopped in an area where students were meeting. A gang of armed Zionist settlers jumped out of their cars and started shooting at the students. While most of the students dispersed and took cover, one foreign faculty member was pinned down while the settlers took "pot-shots" at him.

From 11.20 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. the Israeli military authorities used every means possible to harrass, intimidate and provoke the students and local residents.

By days end, 134 identity papers of students and local residents had been confiscated and individuals were ordered to report to the military headquarters next morning. Dr. Baramki, Vice President of Bir Zeit was informed by Amos Tershman, Military Governor of Ramallah, that Bir Zeit was closed to all students until further notice.

On 3 May 1979 at 9.00 a.m. all those whose identity papers had been confiscated went as ordered to the military headquarters. After two hours 72 students and local residents were given back their papers; 62 were detained for investigation. Israeli policemen were posted at the University entrance, and soldiers at a checkpost prevented students from entering the town.

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At 2.30 p.m. a group of high-ranking military officers including Yigael Karmon, advisor to the military governor of the West Bank and Amos Tershman, appeared at Bir Zeit University and presented Dr. Baramki with a military order. They then proceeded to search and photograph various offices, classrooms, the dormitory, the snack bar and the library. Also at 2.30 p.m. in Ramallah, several students and faculty members waiting outside the military headquarters were ordered to leave, and as they were leaving two faculty members were pushed and shoved, and one student, a United States citizen, Michael Derrick was savagely beaten with a club.

Later that day Dr. Baramki met with the Military Governor and was informed that the University was closed indefinitely.

This is the second time this semester that Bir Zeit University has been closed. The closing means no examinations this year, and no credits for a year's school work. As I mentioned in my previous letter the denial of the right to education and to go to school is a violation of the very basics of human rights, and such Israeli practices mentioned heretofore, contravene the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

While the world wallows in the euphoria of the so-called "peace-treaty" and plans for so-called "autonomy" for the Palestinians, a new genocide offensive has been undertaken by the Israeli military and illegal Zionist settlers. What the Israeli military fails to achieve with its barbaric and inhuman war machinery, the illegal Zionist settlers aim to finish.

In drawing your attention to this serious situation and pursuant to Security Council resolution 446 of 22 March 1979, express the hope that you will take immediate and effective measures to put an end to this abominable and inhuman wave of violence and aggression against the Palestinian people.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer
