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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a translation from Arabic of the statement issued by Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem on 12 April 1982, concerning the criminal acts of sacrilege and murder perpetrated by Israeli troops against the Islamic holy sanctuary in Jerusalem on Sunday, 11 April 1982. It is evident from the statement that the carnage committed within and against the Al-Aqsa Mosque of the Dome of the Rock was a well-planned and co-ordinated operation in which elements of the Israeli army took part and was not, as alleged by the Israeli occupation authorities, the work of a lone, deranged soldier.

The statement, having authoritatively stated the sad events of the Easter Sunday massacre, also expresses, unmistakably, the apprehension that such criminal acts are likely to be repeated by certain armed civilian agencies drawing on the support of the authorities to perpetrate acts of assassination, abduction and violence against the unarmed Palestinian people of the occupied territories. The statement furthermore, holds the Israeli Government, which gives support and sustenance to these armed gangs, responsible for what happened on Easter Sunday and what is expected to happen subsequently.

In view of the authoritative and serious charges contained in the statement, I request, Your Excellency, that the statement of the Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 12 April 1982 by the Higher Islamic Council
in Jerusalem

IN THE NAME OF GOD THE ALL MERCIFUL THE ALL COMPASSIONATE,

The Islamic Council in Jerusalem had earlier convened an emergency press conference, in which the Council outlined concisely some of the events to which the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque had been exposed and also outlined in categorical terms the warnings which it had addressed to the responsible officials on the highest levels in the Israeli Government.

It had requested them to shoulder their responsibilities in preventing what happened yesterday or what might happen in the future against this great sanctuary.

Today, and in the light of the new facts, disclosures and consequences which have become evident in consequence of the outrageous acts which occurred yesterday, and what accompanied and followed those sad events, the Islamic Council wishes to state the following:

1. The number of those who were murdered yesterday was two, and the number of the wounded exceeded 100.
2. The forcible assault of the criminal soldier was only an initial phase of the criminal operation. It has been established that firing did not emanate from him alone but from many directions and, in particular, from the western wing of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque as well as from the roof of the religious school which belongs to the Islamic Higher Council and is under the occupation of the Israeli armed forces, which had expelled the students who were taking Islamic studies there. This proves that the operation had been well-prepared and co-ordinated in advance of the actual event.
3. The assault upon the structure of the Dome of the Rock resulted in inflicting damage to the structure of the Dome of the Rock.
4. The grand glass mosaic panel at the entrance to the gate of the Dome of the Rock from its western side was totally destroyed; and serious damage was inflicted on the Dome of the Rock and on the marble pillars within it.
5. Such an operation should not be allowed to happen without warning of the serious consequences which result from enabling armed civilian organizations to impose themselves on the people and to regard themselves as responsible for the land while fully armed.

This has enabled these organizations to carry out acts of abduction and wanton assassination as they see fit, drawing their support from the authority which had been accorded to them by the Government to perpetrate acts against the people, who are totally devoid of any arms.

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Therefore, we take this opportunity to demand of the Government that it put a stop to these acts of provocation and to place upon it responsibility for all the events and consequences that might occur.

6. The precedent which occurred at the holy Ibrahimi sanctuary and has resulted in depriving the Muslims from freely performing their prayers makes it imperative upon us to warn of the serious consequences which would accrue to the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque in consequence of the occupation of Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli forces and their forbidding the worshippers to perform their religious duties. Such a situation gravely contradicts the Islamic Sharia law which absolutely forbids any closure of the Mosque to the worshippers for any reasons whatsoever and under any circumstances.

7. The description of the criminal in the official statements as deranged is rejected and should not be issued by any responsible Government; for it is unreasonable that one of the regular soldiers in its army who is required to pass a medical examination should be allowed to carry arms amidst other soldiers. If anyone alleges that this criminal is deranged, then what can be said about the other soldiers who assisted him in the firing spree from the western area? The Higher Islamic Council rejects the statements of the responsible Israeli officials, which contained audacious and clear distortions against the Higher Islamic Council, and the attempts of the Israeli officials to offer excuses for the events which occurred.

We shall move forthwith to perform our worship at the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Higher Islamic Council and all national
institutions and public bodies

N.B. A cable of protest from the Higher Islamic Council containing the aforementioned statement has been sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
