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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-eighth session
Agenda item 4

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED
ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Note by the Secretariat

The Chairman of the Commission has received the letter reproduced below, dated 13 February 1982, addressed to him by the Permanent Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

"Sir,

The Permanent Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents his compliments to you.

He wishes to bring to your attention the fact that the Israeli occupation authorities, again acting in flagrant violation of human rights have ordered the closure of Bir Zeit University in the occupied Palestinian territories. On 4 November 1981, the same authorities had already closed the University for a period of two months. Only six weeks after it was reopened, on 15 February of this year they ordered it to be closed for a further period of two months, which means that the university will have been closed for four months of the university year; the closure was accompanied by the arrest of several teachers and students.

This extremely serious act constitutes a flagrant violation of universally recognized human rights and a blow to the cultural identity of the Palestinian people. It also constitutes a further violation of the resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations demanding respect for the Palestinian people's right to education and free access to its educational and cultural institutions.

The Permanent Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization requests you to bring the contents of this letter to the attention of the participants at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights and to exercise your competence with a view to the reopening of Bir Zeit University.

Accept, Sir, the expression of our highest consideration.

(Signed) Daoud BARAKAT
Permanent Observer for the PLO
to the United Nations"