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

Letter, dated 25 February 1982, addressed to the
President of the Commission on Human Rights at its
thirty-eighth session by the Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Arab Republic

I have the honour to bring to your attention the fact that the inhabitants of occupied Syrian Golan have, for the last twelve days, been subjected to arbitrary measures of oppression, intimidation and imprisonment by the Israeli occupation authorities, as a result of their opposition to the application of the Israeli law of 14 December annexing this occupied Syrian territory.

On 12 February, in the course of its present session, the Commission on Human Rights passed a resolution condemning the Israeli decision of 14 December and requiring that Israel, as an occupying power, should rescind that illegal and pernicious measure.

Instead of complying with the injunctions of the Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, the Israeli occupation authorities have intensified their repressive measures against the Syrian citizens of occupied Golan in order to force them to accept Israeli nationality and renounce their own Syrian nationality.

These Israeli occupation authorities have arrested their chief representatives ("Le Monde" of 16 February 1982) and have threatened Syrian workers with dismissal if they do not end their protest strike against the illegal Israeli measures.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations in New York addressed a note, on 18 February, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations stigmatizing the brutal measures applied by the Israeli occupation authorities against the whole Syrian population on strike in occupied Golan, a copy of which is attached.

The civilian population of occupied Syrian Golan is exposed to very great dangers in view of the utter contempt of the Israeli occupation authorities for the elementary principles of international law and the fourth Geneva Convention.

The four arrested leaders of the Syrian population of occupied Golan, who are of advanced age, are being subjected to inhuman treatment and their health, and even their lives, will be greatly at risk if their imprisonment continues.

You are thus requested, Sir, to circulate this letter to all the members of the Commission on Human Rights.

It is to be hoped that, under the pressure of the United Nations and of the international community in general, the Israeli occupation authorities will release the four notables who have been arrested and will halt their repression against the whole community of Syrian citizens.

The latter claim legitimate kinship with their country and adamantly refuse to change their nationality to become Israeli subjects, against their will and in violation of all United Nations resolutions and the principles of international law.

(Signed) Adib DAOUDY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Syria

ANNEX

18 February 1982

Soon after the Israeli occupation authorities' decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in 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 nations under occupation are expressing by all the means at their disposal their rejection of the Israel 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.

We 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 our nationals under a racist expansionist régime:

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 Kinge Kinge Abou Saleh, in addition to the arrest and imprisonment of other Syrian nations, 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 pastures 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 Has'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 substitution of the Syrian educational curricula 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 12 February 1982.

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