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Item 51 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 5 April 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring to your attention the plight of the inhabitants of Halhul - in the Hebron region of the West Bank of Jordan - who for three weeks, which ended a few days ago, were placed under total curfew and confinement in their town and subjected to collective punitive action, which has been, over the past 11 years, a notorious hallmark of Israeli racist policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, reminiscent of the Nazis' despicable brutality against the occupied peoples of Europe.

The citizens of Halhul who are presently residing in Jordan have appealed to the Government of Jordan and to various international organizations to intervene promptly to save the lives of the men, women and children imperiled in consequence of the Israeli occupation authorities' cutting-off of water, medicines and food-stuffs from the town of Halhul.

The situation had arisen three weeks ago, when the inhabitants of Halhul staged a demonstration to protest the attacks perpetrated against them by the Israeli colonizers in Kiryat Arba', aided and abetted by the forces of the occupation authorities. The clash had resulted in the death of two citizens of Halhul, a young girl and a young man.

During the funeral of the two martyred victims of Halhul, renewed and serious clashes ensued between the inhabitants of Halhul and the colonizers of Kiryat Arba'.

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The prolonged siege, imposed upon the town, had resulted in depletion of whatever water reserves, medicines and food-stuffs were available in Halhul, and the Israeli prohibition of all such supplies to the town had posed a serious threat to the lives of the children, women and men of the town.

The relatives of the citizens of Halhul, residing in Amman, have expressed, in their petition to the Government of Jordan, their very deep concern over the Israeli occupation authorities' repeated threats of even more drastic, collective punitive action against the town of Halhul, in reprisal for the town's rejection of the occupation.

I kindly request Your Excellency to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 51 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
