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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 18 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our previous letters relating to Israeli acts of aggression against southern Lebanon, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. On 12 July 1988, the village of Baraachite was subjected to heavy shelling from the so-called "security zone". Israeli military helicopters took part in the shelling, and approximately 150 shells fell on the village. The first-aid personnel of the International Red Cross were unable to evacuate the wounded until the following day. One of them stated that more than 150 houses had been destroyed by the shelling or had suffered extensive material damage, which caused the inhabitants to evacuate them and take refuge in neighbouring villages, particularly after seeing a number of Israeli military machines stationed at a site overlooking the towns.

2. The Israeli forces have continued their attacks on the village of Qantara. These attacks have caused the destruction of approximately 150 houses, displacing the inhabitants, and 36 citizens have been killed so far. From time to time, the Israeli forces block the roads leading to the village and carry out continuing combing operations in the fields surrounding it, which has led to the outbreak of fires in farmland and made access to and departure from the village extremely difficult. The Israeli forces also place severe restrictions on the youths of the village who have remained and prevent them from leaving, with the aim of forcing them to join the so-called "South Lebanon Army". These forces have detained five of these youths, Ali Mahmud Aliq, Ahmad Mahmud Aliq, Zaynab al-Miqdad, Zaynab Atawi, Ahmad Ali al-Husayn and put them in Kham detention camp.

* A/43/50.

3. On 13 July 1988, an Israeli force consisting of an infantry detachment supported by military helicopters infiltrated the outskirts of the village of Lebbaya and shelled the village. Some of the shells fell on the neighbouring village of Souhmur, which resulted in the death of a Lebanese Army corporal, Hasan Husayn Rida.

The Lebanese Government vehemently condemns these Israeli acts of aggression and once again warns of the danger which their continuation and the continuation of the inhumane Israeli practices against the civilian population present for the situation in southern Lebanon and in the region as a whole. The Lebanese Government stresses the necessity of putting an end to these violations of Lebanese sovereignty and this breach of the United Nations Charter and international law. It calls for an investigation of this and for efforts to secure the release of the Lebanese detainees in Khiam and other Israeli detention centres.

I request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 40 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
