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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-fifth session
Item 4 of the draft provisional agenda

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

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities

Fortieth session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,
INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION
AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL
COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER
DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND
TERRITORIES

Letter dated 27 April 1988 from the League of Arab States
addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights
for the attention of the Special Committee

The Council of Permanent Arab Representatives accredited to the United Nations at Geneva held a meeting on Tuesday, 26 April 1988, at which it considered the violations of human rights committed by Israel in the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories, which are a result of the policy constantly and systematically pursued by Israel since its occupation of these territories by force.

This Israeli policy, which contravenes the rules of international law, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has led Israel to renew its aggression against the Republic of Tunisia, violating its territorial integrity and security; this aggression was condemned by the Security Council in the resolution it adopted on 25 April 1988. Israeli terrorism perpetrated another heinous crime when Mr. Khalil Al-Wazir (Abou Jihad), deputy commander-in-chief of the revolutionary forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was murdered in the early hours of Saturday, 16 April 1988 at his home in Tunis, in the presence of his wife and children. Israel thus added a further crime to the long list of murders committed outside the occupied territories in Cyprus and at Athens, not to mention its acts of piracy, when Israelis stop civilian ships and arrest their passengers, the diversion of aircraft to Israeli airports and the almost daily raids by Israelis into Lebanon to kill the sons of Palestine and Lebanon. Attention should also be drawn to the Israeli aggression constituted by the air raid against the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Tunisian civilian centres in October 1985, in which many Tunisian and Palestinian civilians were killed.

These crimes cannot be isolated from the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories, which consist in firing on Palestinians every day to kill, using prohibited gases, breaking the bones of civilians and causing pregnant women to suffer abortions. In addition, the Israelis attack the wounded in hospitals, destroy houses and impose collective sanctions on Palestinian civilians. Meanwhile, towns and villages of the West Bank and Gaza, which have been declared military zones, are under siege. Thousands of Palestinians are incarcerated in detention centres set up for this purpose, in addition to the existing prisons. The people of Palestine continue to suffer expulsion from their homeland. All this represents flagrant and persistent contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Certain elements of the Israeli crimes go so far beyond violation of that Convention and of the principles of international humanitarian law as to be subject to the provisions of article 2 of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

(Signed)

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of Oman and Chairman of the Council of
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to the United Nations at Geneva