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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EASTSECURITY COUNCIL
Thirtieth yearLetter dated 10 April 1975 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I would like to bring to your urgent attention the following criminal Israeli acts committed against Egyptian fishing boats and their personnel:

(1) The International Committee of the Red Cross advised the Egyptian authorities that, on 30 March 1975, the Israeli Navy seized an Egyptian fishing boat, which had encountered some mechanical troubles sailing from Port Said to Beirut, on the high seas at a distance of 25 miles from the city of Caesarea. The Israeli Navy towed the fishing boat into the port of Ashdod. Up to now, the Egyptian authorities have not received from the International Committee of the Red Cross any information regarding the release of the boat's crew of eight, a fact which has no other explanation than that the Israeli authorities are illegally detaining these sailors;

(2) On 21 March 1975, the Israeli Navy stopped on the high seas an Egyptian fishing boat called "Nasr-El-Suez" at a point opposite Ras Bakr in the Red Sea. The Israeli Navy confiscated quantities of the fish on the boat as well as personal belongings of its crew, before permitting the fishing boat to continue its trip. Later, however, this same boat was stopped on the high seas and fired on by another Israeli boat when the fishermen resisted arrest. As a result, the following Egyptian fishermen were wounded:

Ahmed Salama Hilal;
El Mahmoudy Souliman Ali;
Zaki Hassan Harroun;

Hilal-Ali Hassan Harroun;
Gamal Abdel-Naser Khudeir.

The Israeli Navy forced the boat to proceed to the port of El Tor where, later in the evening, Ahmed Salama died as a result of his wounds. The Israeli authorities later released the four other fishermen after they had been interrogated by Israeli intelligence for four days.

These criminal acts of piracy on the high seas on the part of the Israelis increase tension, endanger human lives and are condemnable and punishable according to international law and conventions.

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 109 of the agenda of the twenty-ninth session, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
