

# UNITED NATIONS



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECURITY COUNCIL

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/9367  
S/11138 ✓  
30 November 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Twenty-eighth session  
Agenda item 22  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Twenty-eighth year

Letter dated 29 November 1973 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

Pursuant to my letter dated 20 November 1973 (A/9328-S/11120) and with reference to the letter addressed to Your Excellency by the Israeli representative on 26 November 1973 (A/9342-S/11130), I have the honour to inform you, upon instructions from my Government, of the following:

1. As the result of the Israeli military attack launched against Syrian territory during the second week of October 1973, a number of Syrian civilians and military personnel were either killed or wounded. Israeli forces, contrary to all norms of international humanitarian law and civilized behaviour, callously refrained from evacuating the wounded and left them on the ground without any care or assistance. This despicable behaviour took place in the area where the following Syrian villages are located: HADAR, JUBBATTA-AL-KHASHAB, BEITJINN FARM, HARFA, JABA MASHARAH, KAFAR NASEJ, KHAN ARNABEH and other villages. Israel's inhuman behaviour was also illustrated by the cruel and illegal treatment inflicted upon the population of the villages mentioned above. While Israeli forces were forcibly evicting the inhabitants of these villages, they did not only refuse extending any help to evacuate the wounded civilians, but opened fire against the inhabitants to terrorize them in order to accelerate their departure. Some of the villagers were compelled to leave behind them their wounded and disabled relatives near the forward positions of the Israeli forces at the entrance of the village of BEITJINN FARM (south-west) and in KAFAR NASEJ. The Syrian Government has already seized the International Committee of the Red Cross of these grave violations of both the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, <sup>1/</sup> and has asked the ICRC to look into these acts and to take all necessary measures to prevent such barbarism.

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 972, p. 135, and No. 973, p. 287.

2. Israel's defiance of international law has reached such a dangerous proportion that the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations had to adopt, on 26 November 1973, a draft resolution 2/ in which it categorically rebuffed Israel's claim that the Fourth Geneva Convention was not applicable to territories occupied by Israel since June 1967. By a majority of 109 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, the Special Political Committee, after having reminded Israel of its obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, affirmed "that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 applies to Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967" and called upon Israel "to respect and comply with the provisions of that Convention in the occupied Arab territories".

3. Israeli authorities have escalated lately their campaign of slur and slander against the Syrian Arab Republic in order to divert attention from Israel's grave violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention. These violations were openly admitted by the Israeli representative on 19 November 1973 before the Special Political Committee. The Israeli representative unabashedly stated:

"Since 1967, forty-two Israeli settlements, with a combined population of 4,200 have been established in the administered areas.

"These settlements are of two types - the first is known as Nahal Outposts. Nahal is the Hebrew name for a corps in the Israel Defence Forces which combines military service with farm work. Its bases, which are manned by soldiers on active duty, are at the same time military installations and farming villages. The second kind of settlements are of a mainly civilian nature. They may not be established except with Government permission. So far only 3,150 Israeli civilians have been allowed to take up residence in the area, including former Nahal members, who have completed their conscript service.

"... In the Golan Heights the non-Israeli population consists of some 8,000 Druzes. There are 1,100 Israelis, who live in fifteen settlements, that bore the brunt of the Syrian attack on 6 October."

Israel believes that by propagating fabricated allegations on Syria's treatment of Israeli prisoners of war, the international community will absolve Israeli authorities from war crimes systematically committed against the Arabs in the occupied territories.

I respectfully request that the text of this letter be circulated as an official document of both the Security Council and the General Assembly.

(Signed) Haissam KELANI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Syrian  
Arab Republic to the United Nations