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Letter dated 24 December 1973 from the Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring to your Excellency's urgent attention a serious aspect of Israel's cruel and inhuman attitude concerning human lives, and its persistent refusal to carry out its obligations in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 1/ as well as the principles of international humanitarian law.

Israel has continuously refused to allow the evacuation of more than 150 emergency cases of wounded and sick in the Suez hospital. The International Committee of the Red Cross has repeatedly requested the Israeli authorities to allow the ICRC representatives to evacuate the wounded from the Suez hospital, but all its requests have been adamantly rejected. The Israeli refusal of all such evacuation requests leads to the death of a number of the wounded in the Suez hospital.

Thus Israel arrogantly continues to violate the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and in particular article 15 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 2/ as well as the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. 3/ In accordance with the rules of these Conventions, the principles of international humanitarian law as well as the basic concepts of humanity, Israel bears the full responsibility for its violations and the serious consequences thereof.

I have the honour to request your Excellency that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970 to 973.

2/ Ibid., No. 970, p. 31.

3/ Ibid., No. 973, p. 287.