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LETTER DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
JORDAN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention another Israeli oppressive and brutal campaign against Jordanian civilians in the occupied West Bank of Jordan.

In the towns of Al-Khalil (Hebron) and of Beit Sahour adjacent to Bethlehem, the citizens have been subjected to different kinds of intimidation, economic strangulation, arbitrary arrests and torture. Both towns have been under a state of Israeli military seige reminiscent of medieval ages.

The Israeli occupying authorities have ordered the closure of the central market where vegetables, fruits, meat and other materials are transacted as well as the poultry and the clothes markets.

The Jerusalem Post Weekly of 21 September 1969, reported that: "Over 40 local stores, in the old market place ..... were ordered closed and their keys were seized". It has also been reported that the Israeli army in a wave of bitter animosity went into stores and mixed rice with sugar and poured petrol over flour. They arrested inhabitants, took off their clothes and left them naked under the soaring heat of the sun. Others were forcibly deported to the East Bank of Jordan. Houses were dynamited and blown up with all the furniture therein. The city of Al-Khalil and its district were cut from the rest of Jordanian centers in the occupied territory. Even medical materials could not be carried to the city.

The fate of the town of Beit Sahour where the Shepherd's Field is located has not been better. Indeed it is worse. The town has been under a state of siege since 29 August and the curfew lasts 22 hours a day. Inhabitants are not allowed to go out of their houses. Israel's army plant bombs and explode them at

night to terrorize the inhabitants. The semi-official Israeli paper, the Jerusalem Post of 21 September 1969, reported that: "... the new regulations seemed to be the strictest yet imposed on a West Bank town since the Six Day War".

A representative of the International Red Cross was not allowed to enter the town. The attempts of the Representative of the Holy See to go into the town and listen to the complaints of its inhabitants have also failed. He too was not permitted to enter the town.

The plight of these innocent civilians, captives of a brutal military occupation and Israel's continuous violations of Human Rights and Geneva Conventions call for an immediate action to stop the misery and suffering they are subjected to.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Muhammad H. EL-FARRA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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