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LETTER DATED 18 SEPTEMBER 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JORDAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since the Security Council is seized with the question of obstacles raised by the Israeli Government against the projected second humanitarian mission of Your Excellency's representative, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

Your Excellency's note of 31 July 1968 (A/7149, S/8699) on the scope and nature of this mission was clear and definite. The Israeli Government is responsible for the delay of this humanitarian mission that lies within the framework of Security Council resolution 237 (1967) and General Assembly resolution 2252 (ES-V).

The attached protests sent by Arab leaders and inhabitants of the occupied territories to Israeli officials as well as international bodies throw more light on the inhuman and other arbitrary measures taken by the Israeli authorities against innocent people in the occupied territories. The document submitted by the mayors of the West Bank calls for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli foreign occupation. These protests and declarations, I am sure, will help members of the Security Council in their deliberations.

I will be grateful, therefore, if this letter and its enclosures can be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and Security Council.

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

* Also issued under the symbol A/7234.

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I

A. Cable of protest sent by Archbishops and Bishops
in Jerusalem to His Excellency U Thant concerning
the desecration of the Holy City of Jerusalem by
the Israeli Occupying Forces

27 August 1968

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

The spread of night-clubs and places of immoral entertainment in Arab Jerusalem at the hands of Israeli occupation authorities conflicts with the sanctity and spiritual traditions which this city enjoyed throughout the ages.

The profanation of this Holy City is the inevitable result of Israel's continuous attempt to Judaize Jerusalem and to annex it in utter disregard to the successive United Nations resolutions.

We condemn these immoral actions and appeal to Your Excellency to send a representative to inform you of the realities of the situation in order to protect the Holy City from such immoral acts and violations.

Please accept, Your Excellency, our profound respect.

(Signed) Bishop N. Simaan (Roman Catholic)
Archbishop Assaf (Greek Catholic)
Archbishop Deodores (Greek Orthodox)
Father A. Zehtelawie (Armenian Orthodox)
Father Heroutian Diuleghian (Armenian Orthodox)
Reverend Sh. Farah (Anglican Church)
Reverend B. Touma (Syrian Orthodox)

I

B. Letter of protest to the Prime Minister of Israel from sixty-four prominent Arab ladies from Jerusalem, concerning the desecration of the Holy City by the Israeli Occupying Forces

11 August 1968

Mr. Prime Minister,

We, the women of Arab Jerusalem, would like to bring to your attention the painful and sad conditions that have beset this Holy City. They range from corruption to prostitution, the opening of night clubs and other indecent and immoral entertainment places, accompanied in most cases with disturbances at late hours of the nights, and the spread of gambling, addiction to morphine and other drugs of intoxication. All this is taking place with the full knowledge of the Israeli authorities, who act with indifference to such profane and immoral deeds.

Jerusalem, the Holy City, the city of religious spiritualism and worship, had never witnessed in its long glorious history - a history that embodied scores of rulers and conquerors - such **contemptuous conditions**. The Ottoman Empire, the Government of the British Mandate, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, did not permit at any time such immoral conditions, which violate the sanctity of this Holy City, to exist. Even the Israeli authorities prohibited such immoral conditions to exist in the western part of Jerusalem.

Due to the fact that this Holy City holds a special and reverent place in the hearts of the followers of the three main religions, and because what is happening today is in contradiction to the traditions and morality of its Arab inhabitants and a clear challenge to their feelings, we request you to take this matter seriously and interfere immediately to bring an end to such attempts, which are aiming at demoralizing and degrading the society of this Holy City.

With highest respects on behalf of the Jerusalem women.

1. Zalikha Al-Shahabi
3. Amina Al-Husseini
5. Samiha Alaididine
7. Nabaha Al-Kutub
9. Khadija Sharaf
11. Aisha Al-Tazziz
13. Siret Al-Khatib
15. Nuzha Nusseibeh
17. Iffa Al-Maghrebi
19. Zahia Tahboub
21. Samiha Hajazi
23. Nazmia Zalatio
25. Zainab Al-Shami
27. Georgette Rizq
29. Salwa Otki
31. Rida Barakat
33. Amena Al-Ghossein
35. Samiha Tuqan
37. Eita Matouk
39. Olga Khalil
41. Zahia Nashashibi
43. Wahiha Abu Saud
45. Hikmet Abu Al-Haj
47. Fatmeh Al-Afifi
49. Kudsieh Seif El-Dein
51. Lutfieh Yunes Hussein
53. Jamilah Habash
55. Damieh Al-Dajani
57. Ghosoun Addezdard
59. Lemiah Al-Kadoumi
61. Hikmet Al-Ansari
63. Nimati Abu Ghazalu
2. Rabab Al-Budeiri
4. Samiya Jarallah
6. Ghayda Al-Daqaq
8. Shahira Abdul Hadi
10. Alaine Khodr
12. Fikra Al-Mustaqiem
14. Betty Majaj
16. Wajda Khaddi
18. Leina Al-Hahbi
20. Amina Al-Kazmi
22. Tharwa Hindiah
24. Alice Salah
26. Nafarat Idanian
28. Zakia Batoto
30. Nadira Abu Gharbiah
32. Mary Khouri
34. Nawal Al-Kaloti
36. Amena Abdul Latif
38. Nudiah Shahin
40. Nuzha Darwish
42. Odette Safia
44. Nadia Moamer
46. Widad Al-Assali
48. Wafieh Izheiman
50. Angelique Al-Wunzo
52. Rifqa Al-Hilou
54. Ismet Al-Alami
56. Wajiha Al-Khatib
58. Fatoumeh Hidmi
60. Mary El-Yusef
62. Mary Beibi
64. Majdah Ja'ouni

II

A. Protest sent by leaders of Moslem and Christian communities and institutions to the Israeli Occupying Authorities concerning the mistreatment of innocent Arab ladies in Israeli prisons

24 July 1968

To the Military Governor of the West Bank:

The accused is innocent unless proven guilty. The court is the body to judge that, and this is a prerequisite to justice and conscience.

Since the Israeli occupation of our country, caravans of accused persons are daily led to prisons. It has become known for certain that these persons are subjected to all kinds of suppression, intimidation and tortures before they are even interrogated. In their torture, the Israelis do not differentiate between the elderly and the young or between men and women. The tortures are carried out with the cognizance of the Israeli authorities. Many of those tortured were later proven innocent, but a great number of them were rendered handicapped for the rest of their lives.

What has been inflicted upon Mrs. Abla Taha, Miss Sarah Judah from Jerusalem, and Miss Lutfia Ibrahim and others in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of all sorts of torture and intimidation before being given a trial is only a glaring example of such Israeli mistreatment.

We therefore protest against such Israeli behaviour, which can only lead to adverse and bitter effects. We request that these innocent ladies and others be immediately released and that instructions be given to discontinue this kind of inhuman treatment, be it clubbing, intimidation or torture and instead respect their human rights.

SIGNATURES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Mustafa Tahboub
Director Hebron Waqf | 2. Idriss Al Tamimi
Imam - Ibrahimi Mosque,
Hebron |
| 3. Said Sabri
Islamic Law Judge of
Jerusalem (Qadi) | 4. Hilmi Al Muhtasib
Chief Qadi of the West Bank |

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- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|--|
| 5. | Bishop Caboush
Roman Catholic Church | 6. | Mohamed Muheisin
Qadi of Ramallah |
| 7. | Said Al-din Al-Alami
Mufti of Jerusalem | 8. | Wasfi Al Masri
Shari'a Court |
| 9. | Rajab Al Tamimi
Qadi of Hebron | 10. | Wasif Abdou
Qadi of Jenin |
| 11. | The Very Reverend Pastor
Anglican Church
Jerusalem and Nablus | 12. | Reverend Issa Khouri
Roman Catholic |
| 13. | Reverend George Hida
Roman Catholic | | |

cc. His Excellency The Secretary-General of the United Nations,
U Thant

Chief of Staff of UNTSO, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull

Women's International Union

President, International Committee for the Red Cross,
Geneva

The Right Reverend Internuncio

Consular Corps in Jerusalem.

II

B. Mistreatment of innocent Arab ladies in Israeli prisons: a letter signed by one hundred and seventy-eight Arab ladies sent to the Israeli Military Governor

24 July 1968

To the Military Governor:

The Israeli occupying authorities captured Mrs. Able Taha and Miss Sarah Judah, both from Jerusalem, and Miss Lutfia Ibrahim from Beirah and imprisoned them in Jerusalem Central Prison.

It has become known that these ladies are badly and savagely treated by Jewish prostitutes detained in the same prison who beat the Arab ladies to the stage where they lose consciousness. Mrs. Taha, who happened to be pregnant, was savagely treated and repeatedly beaten by the Israeli prostitutes to bring about a miscarriage. All this happened with the cognizance of the Israeli policemen. Marks of the savage treatment are still obvious on the faces and bodies of the Arab ladies. This has been verified by visits of relatives and others.

We, the representatives of all women's organizations and institutions in Jerusalem and other cities in the West Bank, emphasize to the responsible authorities the ugly consequences and effects of such behaviour, which is in direct violation of basic ethics, civilized norms, human integrity and conscience and national as well as international rules. We request the immediate release of our imprisoned innocent ladies. In this respect, we will not hesitate to raise our voices before competent international organizations.

SIGNATURES

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Hind Bandak | 2. Layla Hamzah |
| 3. Lourice Khaliliya | 4. Sharifah Khalil |
| 5. Rene Mansour | 6. Afifah Dimo |
| 7. Itaf Hamdan | 8. Badriyah Mahmoud |
| 9. Insaf Abdul Rahman | 10. Lione Samarah |
| 11. Neha Bastami | 12. Rose Hazboun |
| 13. Nuda Bandak | 14. Hiam Uolid |
| 15. Ellen Shishan | 16. Mariam Al Bitar |
| 17. Loze Abu Iid | 18. Badesah Khouri |
| 19. Sousan Badr | 20. Suad Abdul Razaq |
| 21. Ilham Abdul Rahman | 22. Sarah Barakat |
| 23. Hanifah Hanania | 24. Wadia Hazbouat |

25. Nimah Najmati
27. Fatima Hamida
29. Rajab Al Tamimi
31. Hilwah Jakaman
33. Sihab Shaheen
35. Wafika Al Mahboub
37. Suad Darweish
39. Karam Al Shakhshair
41. Bushra Al Adham
43. Yusra Salah
45. Shuhrah Al Masri
47. Khitam Tafaha
49. Nabeiha Al Masri
51. Samar Nabilsi
53. Fatima Faris
55. Nimat Jarrar
57. Maha Nabilsi
59. Siham Taqtaq
61. Gihan Ghannam
63. Zeili Toukan
65. Randa Al Masri
67. Fatima Kanan
69. Nimat Ayoub
71. Zeizi Nasser
73. Latifa Rizik
75. Shahirah Al Sahib
77. Khitab Ziyadah
79. Nathmia Ibrahim
81. Missereh Salah
83. Rima Salim
85. Maha Al Nimir
87. Lamis Khaliefah
89. Fatima Al Masri
91. Azeeza Al Masri
93. Nawal Abu Ghazala
95. Nahida Abu Ghazala
97. Khawla Nathmi
99. Jamila Aawasi
101. Rajwa Zein
103. Rabia Abdul Hadi
105. Huda Abdu
107. Hussniya Al Suqi
109. Nadiya Aziz
111. Suad Darweish
113. Khawla Toukan
115. Suheir Saleh
117. Yusra Abdullah
119. Khadija Al Badiri
26. Miyasar Abdien
28. InsaF Abidah
30. Mustafa Tahboub
32. Roshia Bandak
34. Fada Qasim
36. Widad Hamid
38. Majida Al Masri
40. Ghada Abdul Hadi
42. Karam Kamal
44. Layla Kanaan
46. Sabhah Al Beitar
48. Samar Al Masri
50. Nazeeha Kamal
52. Fahmiya Suleiman
54. Haseeba Al Mahmoud
56. Rabab Husni
58. Nimat Hisham
60. Amal Al Sujdi
62. Qamar Attari
64. Nihaya Al Thahir
66. Hadya Al Masri
68. Faiha Abdul Hadi
70. Ramya Salah
72. Latiefah Hussein
74. Laiqa Kamal
76. Isam Abdul Hadi
78. Khuzamah Shaheen
80. Shadiya Abu Ghazala
82. Salam Qassif
84. Halah Al Nimir
86. Samira Al Masri
88. Hanan Al Masri
90. Dalal Aaloul
92. Ilham Abu Ghazala
94. Nabeila Al Masri
96. Nahidah Al Aloul
98. Mahfoutha Kamal
100. Nahla Nayif
102. Domya Abdul Hadi
104. Nihayah Hussein
106. Anan Mutei'
108. Inshirah Khalaf
110. Layla Hilmi
112. Yusra Kamel
114. Najiah Auis
116. Nadirah Aarif
118. Tahsein Abdul Hadi
120. Nathifah Al Hussein

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|------|--------------------|------|----------------------|
| 121. | Rabab Al Budeiri | 122. | Nahla Al Assali |
| 123. | Fatima Barakat | 124. | Nadiyah Muamar |
| 125. | Ihsan Attiya | 126. | Fatima Darweish |
| 127. | Dumya Dajjani | 128. | Usama Abdul Salam |
| 129. | Nadya Al Qutub | 130. | Aaisha Quteina |
| 131. | Nayfa Ansari | 132. | Aliya Nusseibah |
| 133. | Samia Dajjani | 134. | Insaf Alam Al Dein |
| 135. | Wasfia Al Nimiri | 136. | Samira Al Khalidi |
| 137. | Mufuth Abu Al Soud | 138. | Fadila Al Saih |
| 139. | Aqbal Al Saih | 140. | Nimah Hassan |
| 141. | Layla Hussein | 142. | Ismat Najjab |
| 143. | Lutfia Abu Layla | 144. | Nuzha Darweish |
| 145. | Ghada Abu Gazzala | 146. | Wajeiha Al Khateib |
| 147. | Nura Qurut | 148. | Fatima Abu Al Soud |
| 149. | Milia Halabi | 150. | Asia Halabi |
| 151. | Abla Toubasi | 152. | Aaishah Ghalayyini |
| 153. | Aidah Uodah | 154. | Lamya Salah |
| 155. | Layla Wahba | 156. | Labiba Dajjani |
| 157. | Aneesah Uodah | 158. | Dr. Fatima Nazzal |
| 159. | Dr. Layla Qusseis | 160. | Linda Nasser |
| 161. | Evelun Faramki | 162. | Wadia Michel |
| 163. | Samihah Khalil | 164. | Rima Tarazi |
| 165. | Hanan Raikhami | 166. | Layla Nuri |
| 167. | Ubiedah Kamal | 168. | Emily Dand |
| 169. | Afaf Aqil | 170. | Mukaram Kasrawi |
| 171. | Aminah Zaron | 172. | Nazeiha Abdul Jawwad |
| 173. | Saliha Mustafa | 174. | Najma Uodah |
| 175. | Layla Othman | 176. | Tarkia Al Madi |
| 177. | Samira Al Madi | 178. | Falak Al Madi |

cc. His Excellency The Secretary-General of the United Nations
Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull
Women's International Union
Consular Corps in Arab Jerusalem
President, International Committee for the Red Cross, Geneva
The Right Reverend Internuncio
Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations

III

A. Letter of Arab lawyers to the Israeli
Military Commander of Gaza concerning
the expulsion of refugees in Jabalia
camp

To the Commander of Israel Defence Army
in Gaza and North Sinai
c/o The Legal Counsellor

Sir,

1. The Immigration and Travel Bureau in Jabalia refugee camp notified our clients, whose names are listed below, to come to the bureau on 11 July 1968 with two photographs of each and their identity cards. Our clients took this to mean that there was a plan to deport them and their children, on the ground that the Immigration and Travel Bureau had already ordered the Mukhtars to furnish a list of families, whose heads were away, in order to deport them.

The deportation was postponed after an agreement was reached between some of the Mukhtars on one hand, and the Immigration and Travel Department on the other, to send some persons to Amman and try and find the addresses of the heads of those families. These persons left for Amman on 14 July 1968.

2. Our clients, who were ordered to be present at the Immigration and Travel Bureau in Jabalia camp were:

- (A) Aishah Hasan Younis: five children. Husband is a carpenter and was in the United Arab Republic before the June war.
- (B) Aishah El-Abid Mohammad Al-Kahlout: one child. Husband is a former soldier, who was taken by the Israeli Army in June 1967 and nothing is known of him since. It is believed he is lost.
- (C) Mariam Ahmed Saleh Abu Sameir: two children. Husband had been a teacher in the United Arab Republic before the June war. No recent contacts with him.
- (D) Aneisah Mohammed Omar Ahmad: five children. Husband had been a teacher in Suez before the June war. No new information about him.
- (E) Ni'mah Mohammad Saleh: eight children. Husband had been a carpenter in the United Arab Republic before the June war. No recent contacts with him.

3. None of our clients has asked any department to leave the Gaza Strip or to travel anywhere. They have not asked anybody, whether be it a Mukhtar or somebody else, to do this for them nor have our clients been counselled on this matter.

The Israeli notification was a surprise for them especially that the Gaza Strip had become their second home as they originally came from villages in the Gaza area occupied by Israel in 1948.

4. As shown above, the whole operation takes the nature of expulsion from the occupied territories to another camp State. This is against all international agreements and in violation of Security Council resolutions and human rights.

It has become known that the Israeli Immigration and Travel Department asked the Mukhtars of Jabalia refugee camp to submit lists of names of families whose heads were not present. Some lists were presented. These families were notified and ordered to leave.

5. These operations of expulsion will only result in more sufferings and bitterness, which certainly are not conducive to solutions of the problem. It is therefore not in the interest of any party to decide upon and execute such operations whether directly or indirectly.

International agreements, Security Council resolutions, and different laws have rejected these kinds of operations:

A. Article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, to which the Government of Israel is a party reads:

"Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive."

B. Security Council resolution 237 of 14 June 1967, inter alia, states:

"1. Calls upon the Government of Israel to ensure the safety, welfare and security of the inhabitants of the areas where military operations have taken place and to facilitate the return of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities;

"2. Recommends to the Governments concerned the scrupulous respect of the humanitarian principles governing the treatment of prisoners of war and the protection of civilian persons in time of war, contained in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949."

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C. It is a natural law that a human being resides in his home and that his basic rights and liberties and security be afforded to him irrespective of his race, language, religion and sex.

6. Our clients are refugees supported by UNRWA. They have arranged their living as inhabitants of Jabalia refugee camp. Their expulsion for the second time since 1948 will further deepen their tragedy. Their expulsion, whether by explicit or implicit means is in direct violation of international law and conventions and Security Council resolutions.

No party can take such unilateral action without the consent of the other parties.

These measures amount to new expulsions which will increase the sufferings and bitterness of the people and will create obstacles against the peaceful hopes in the area.

7. Therefore, we request that these measures be stopped unequivocally and conclusively. They can only augment the sufferings of civilians, particularly the refugees and this is surely not a policy conducive to stability, safety and peace. These acts do not encourage understanding and coexistence. They increase hatred.

We request Your Excellency to order the termination of these measures in accordance with the sovereignty of law and spirit of justice. These will be prerequisites for safety, security and peace.

Please accept my highest regards,

(Signed) Fawzi El-Dajjani
Attorney at Law

Omar Zein El-Dein
Attorney at Law

Farah El-Sarraf
Attorney at Law

Darwish Al-Waheedi
Attorney at Law

Fayez Abu Rahman
Attorney at Law

III

B. Declaration of labour unions of Gaza Strip on the Israeli plans to expel the inhabitants of the Strip

The occupying Israeli authorities are trying to force us to leave our homes and land and expel us to the East Bank of Jordan. Since its occupation of the Gaza Strip, Israel has followed all means of terrorism, and brought waves of pressure and intimidation to expel us. This, as usually is the case with Israel, is in direct violation of all international law and norms.

Following is only a sample of acts of terror executed by the Israeli authorities which aimed at the expulsion of Arab inhabitants and hence annexation of the sector.

1. During the months of September and October 1967, Israel brought a wave of terror to the inhabitants of Jabalia refugee camp and Jabalia proper. The Israelis would take men of fifteen to fifty years of age from their homes after 12:00 midnight, leaving them facing the walls in the streets with their arms up and clubbing anyone who would not follow their instructions and ordering them to leave the Strip.

2. Israel tried to bring a schism in the unity of our workers by refusing employment to any Arab refugee. Arab workers demonstrated their solidarity with their brethren refugees and insisted that they should share whatever possibility of work available. Some workers were only given the choice between either working in Jericho and its area or no work at all.

3. Another wave of terror aimed at the expulsion of students from the Gaza Strip under the pretext that their stay was a security problem.

People of the Arab Nation! Arab Workers! World liberal workers! The above are some Israeli plans for the expulsion of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. Our people, and particularly the revolutionary vanguards of workers and peasants are resisting all kinds of Israeli measures for their expulsion. In the name of conscience and human rights, we appeal to all freedom-loving peoples and workers of the world to raise their voices with us and condemn such Israeli plans of expulsion of Arab indigenous inhabitants. The resistance of our brethren workers in the Gaza Strip must call for the backing of the Arab nation and workers of the world. Your persistence in resisting the Zionist plans of expulsion will certainly lead to victory.

LONG LIVE PALESTINE!

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IV

Appeal sent by the parents of a Palestinian Freedom Fighter
to world public opinion

Saturday, 17 August 1968

On 3 March 1968, the Israeli forces arrested William Nassar and, after subjecting him to the most inhuman tortures, they struck him the worst blow by sentencing him to life imprisonment after a secret and obscure trial.

It seems that the inhuman torturing and unjust trial were not enough to extinguish the raging fire of hatred smouldering in the hearts of the Israelis; a fire rendered more violent by the torch of justice and resistance to the occupier kindling the soul of the prisoner. They resorted to other subtler means of torture: they trampled his honour, offended his decency and abased his human dignity. William drank the cup to the lee, but did not break down. He went on a hunger strike refusing to surrender and willing to inflict upon himself more suffering.

Alas! the unbearable torturing suffered by William was not enough to content the hard hearts of the Nazis of Israel. Their hatred, instead of being satisfied, grew more fierce towards the freedom-fighter. They threw him in a solitary cell, refused to allow any visits from his relatives and slammed the prison's doors in the faces of his parents, who are living, in days of bitter agony, the calvary of their persecuted son in their hearts and minds and hopes.

The Zionists use pompous language to describe their adherence to sympathy and love for peace and claim cunningly and hypocritically their hatred for violence, while they are far from practising what they preach. Their claims are a pack of lies and their utterances nonsense, concealing the most despicable kind of dissimulation. If that was not so, why do not they ask their Government to prove their humanitarianism by letting the prisoner out and abstaining from harming him. Let them also revoke their resolution adopted to prevent a tearful and sad mother and a father, bent down with grief, from visiting their son whose suffering only God knows.

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The torture and inhuman treatment inflicted by Israel upon William is the symbolization of the continued violation of human rights by the aggressor.

We, here are trying to awaken world conscience, we appeal to all freedom-loving peoples, intellectual and religious organizations to make William Nassar's tragedy known in the international forum, to try and save the life of an educated and intelligent young man and that of his brothers in their fight for justice for their courageous country PALESTINE.

Request for the end of Israeli occupation by the mayors
and dignitaries of the West Bank of the Hashemite Kingdom
of Jordan in a letter sent to the Israeli Defence Minister

August 1968

His Excellency the Minister of Defence,

Twenty years have elapsed since the State of Israel was created at the expense of the Palestine people, who lost their homes, properties and land and, as a result, were scattered all over the world. But, the brunt of the catastrophe was borne by the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after losing everything they owned in the occupied territory and as the majority of the former Palestine refugees were compelled to gather in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip sharing with the inhabitants their everyday life.

The inhabitants of the West Bank, through their union with the East Bank, were on the point of regaining their confidence in themselves and improving their economic conditions, when they were faced with a new aggression in June 1967, during which they were the horrified witnesses to murders of innocent men, women and children; offences to their honour, tortures in prisons and demolitions of houses, all of which violated the most elementary principles of human rights. Never did the most pessimistic among them dream that this occupation would last more than a few months; for we had witnessed people under occupation retain their freedom, especially since the United Nations decided to liquidate colonialism, and international law prohibited the retention of the fruits of an aggression.

Then, Israel decided to annex Arab Jerusalem with its Moslem and Christian Holy Places, in open defiance of world opinion and United Nations resolutions. Some time ago, an angry Jewish mob attacked the peaceful inhabitants of Arab Jerusalem and their properties. How can we feel secure and safe in our land after the outbreak of such intentions?

Fourteen months have already elapsed and Israel has not shown any sign of willingness to relinquish the spoils of its aggression, despite the Security Council resolution and despite the sufferings inflicted on the people, the disruption of their economy, the increasing rate of unemployment, the prohibition

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of those working outside to return to their homes and properties and, most important, their denial of freedom.

The inhabitants have protested against this occupation through peaceful resistance and petitions, in order to make their voices heard throughout the world.

We deeply wish peace to extend to all parts of this territory, but we see in the continuous military attacks and the killing of civilians an obstacle to that yearned-for peace.

We feel sure that peace will not come as long as the Israeli forces stay in the occupied territories. Israeli withdrawal is a prerequisite to prove its pronouncements on peace and desire to achieve it.

We are the heads of the municipalities of the West Bank and we represent the wish and will of the people.

We think that our duty is to tell you the truth about the feelings of the inhabitants of the occupied territories vis-a-vis the occupation. They see it as a new kind of colonialism.

All the facilities given them by the military authority in their everyday lives serve only to increase their burning desire to liberate themselves from that bitter occupation.

We are sending this letter through Your Excellency as a strong appeal to your Government and world conscience. It expresses our strong refusal to the continuous occupation.

We will not accept anything but its cessation and we demand our re-union to the East Bank of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Please accept our respects.

Mayor of	Nablus	
" "	Tulkarm	
" "	Jenin	
" "	Ramallah	
" "	Al-Bireh	
" "	Silwad	
Deputy Mayor of	Jerusalem	
Mayor of	Beni Seir	
" "	Tubas	
" "	Beir Zeit	
" "	Betunia	
" "	Beit Sahour	
" "	Deir Debwan	
" "	Salfeet	
" "	Qalqiliya	
" "	Anabta	
" "	Yabad	
" "	Arabah	
" "	Bethlehem	
" "	Jericho	
Mr. Husni Al-Jallad	Community Leader	Tulkarm
Dr. Hafez Abdul Nabi	Member of Parliament	Hebron
Mr. Hikmat Hammuri	Member of Hebron Municipality Board	
Mr. Sudki Alja'bari	Member of Parliament	Hebron
Mr. Qadri Tuqan	Professor and ex-Foreign Minister.	Nablus
Mr. Fahmi Al-Abbouchi	Community Leader	Jenin
Mr. Hikmat Al-Masri	Ex-Speaker, House of Parliament	Nablus
