


General Assembly Security Council

 Distr.
GENERAL

 A/43/992 /
S/20372
5 January 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
Agenda item 37
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

 SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 5 January 1989 from the Acting Chairman of the
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your most urgent attention to the continued grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. Since the last letter of the Chairman of the Committee to you on 6 December 1988 (A/43/946-S/20315), Israel, the occupying Power, has further intensified its policy of repression against the Palestinian people. According to the Washington Post of 2 January 1989, the month of December 1988 was branded by Israeli Parliament members as "black December", during which Israeli soldiers shot fatally 31 Palestinians and wounded more than 400 others.

According to the latest report of the DataBase Project on Palestinian Human Rights, the total number of Palestinian casualties since the beginning of the intifadah more than a year ago has reached 310 persons killed by gunfire and another 146 persons killed by tear-gas, beatings and other actions of the Israeli occupying forces. Mass arrests, demolition of houses, curfews and other various forms of collective punishment, including deportations, continue to be inflicted indiscriminately on the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Committee, in particular, strongly deplores the deportation to southern Lebanon on 1 January 1989 of 15 Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who, according to the Washington Post of 1 January, were charged of being involved in leading the uprising. Another three Palestinians from Gaza had been deported on 14 December. The number of Palestinians deported since the beginning of the uprising has now reached 51. According to a military spokesman another 12 Palestinians are awaiting deportation in the near future.

Such measures are being taken in defiance of Security Council resolutions 607 (1988) and 608 (1988), in which the Council strongly requested Israel, the occupying Power, to abide by its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories, and to ensure the return of those already deported.

The Committee also condemns the frequent and widespread use by Israeli forces of gunfire, which has caused a growing and tragic toll among Palestinian civilians, including children. According to the New York Times of 1 January 1989, Israeli troops, on 16 December 1988, shot and killed eight Palestinians during a funeral procession in Nablus for a 16-year-old Palestinian who had been killed a day earlier. During the same week, another four Palestinians were reportedly killed in the West Bank. On 16 December 1988, according to the daily Ha'aretz, three Palestinians were shot and killed in Deir al-Ghussion and Rafah. Ha'aretz also reported that during the last week of December, six Palestinians were killed by the Israeli army.

In view of the gravity of these events, the Committee wishes once again to protest vigorously the continued armed repression in the occupied Palestinian territory, which is in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, international human rights instruments and United Nations resolutions. Such policies and practices are aimed at preventing the Palestinian people from exercising its inalienable rights in accordance with the principles of the Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations, and pose grave obstacles to the recent international efforts to negotiate a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Committee once again reiterates its appeal to you to take all possible measures to ensure the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians under occupation and to intensify your efforts towards the urgent convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/176 of 15 December 1988.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Shah Mohammad DOST
Acting Chairman of the
Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People
