



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/44/61
S/20359
30 December 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

UN 11073 A 007

JAN 4 1989

UNISA 0011

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fourth session
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 30 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters on the persistent Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanese territory, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. At 9 a.m. on Thursday, 29 December 1988, two Israeli helicopters of the Cobra type attacked the Lebanese town of Sultaniyah, situated in the zone of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and fired seven air-to-surface missiles, causing the wounding of eight civilians. At 11.30 a.m., the two helicopters carried out a second raid on an area along the course of the Litani river in which numerous casualties were caused among civilians.
2. On the same day, Israeli forces and militiamen of the so-called "South Lebanon Army" under their command stormed the town of Bra'shit, where they carried out a search and raided a number of houses. This was accompanied by heavy bombardment of the villages of Shakra and Hadatha which caused severe material damage.
3. During the last 48 hours, Israeli forces have raided a number of villages and detained seven citizens. They are: Samer Awad and Oussama Kaadan from the town of Shab'a; Assad Toufic Tanios from the town of Rashaya Alfakhar; and Naoum Roumman from the town of Blat. All of these towns are situated in the zone of the Norwegian contingent of UNIFIL. The Israeli forces have also detained Fouad Barakat from the town of Shouaya and Fadlallah Hadyfah and Anwar Khafaja from the town of Ain Fenya. All of the detainees were removed to the Khiyam prison.

The Lebanese Government considers Israel's military escalation as a serious development in its aggressive posture and wishes to stress the following:

1. Lebanon considers itself in a permanent state of grievance with regard to the savage and persistent Israeli acts of aggression against its sovereignty, its territorial integrity and the security and safety of its citizens and of all residents of its territory.
2. Lebanon remains dedicated to the Charter of the United Nations, the International Bill of Human Rights and all the international instruments which prohibit any State Member of the United Nations from engaging in aggression against any other State.
3. The latest air raid is the twenty-seventh carried out by the Israeli Air Force against Lebanese territory this year. These raids have caused the deaths of 69 Lebanese and Palestinians, the wounding of a large number of civilians, the destruction of many houses, damage to property and the displacement of many of the inhabitants of those areas which the Israeli forces have made a target for their repeated acts of aggression and their savage practices. These acts of aggression, despite their ferocity and the heavy losses that they inflict in terms of lives and property, only increase the devotion of the Lebanese to their land and reinforce their determination to resist the occupation. That is a legitimate resistance, and it is a right enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Bill of Human Rights, the resolutions of the United Nations, international law and custom and international conventions.

The Lebanese Government, in reiterating its strong condemnation of Israel and its savage acts of aggression and inhuman practices, urges on the General Assembly and the Security Council the need to take speedy deterrent measures to halt those acts of aggression and those practices forthwith and to compel Israel to respect the obligations imposed upon it by its membership in the United Nations and implement the resolutions of the Security Council calling for comprehensive and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and repeatedly stressing the sovereignty of Lebanon, its independence and its territorial integrity.

The Lebanese Government reserves its right to call for a meeting of the Security Council at whatever time it might determine.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY
Permanent Representative
