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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 3 April 1989 from the Chairman of the Committee on  
the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian  
People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the continuing policy of repression by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinians in the occupied territory. Several grave incidents have again taken place since my letter to you of 3 March 1989 (A/43/999-S/20505), as reported below.

On 7 March, as reported by Reuters, Israeli troops stormed a United Nations medical clinic at Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza and, according to the medical staff, 15 Palestinians were wounded. A doctor said that the soldiers, who stormed the clinic after residents hurled stones at them from inside the building, broke everything, including windows and the laboratory equipment.

Ha'aretz, The New York Times and Al-Fajr reported, on 7 and 8 March, that Israeli troops had shot and killed a Palestinian in Nablus while "hunting for the killers" of a soldier who had died there 10 days earlier. The troops also arrested two Palestinians suspected of responsibility for the soldier's death, then blew up their houses. It was also reported that about 130 Palestinians were injured in the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, 32 Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire in widespread protests against the deaths, on 6 March, of three Gaza residents, of whom two had been shot and one had died in a Gaza Strip gaol after allegedly having been beaten to death by Israeli interrogators.

\* A/44/50/Rev.1.

On 9, 10 and 12 March, Ma'ariy and Al-Fajr reported the killing of four Palestinians, of whom three were shot by the army and one was electrocuted when soldiers ordered him to climb an electricity pole to remove a Palestinian flag. Over 20 Palestinians were injured in various incidents. According to Al-Fajr of 13 and 15 March, at least another 21 Palestinians were shot and wounded during those two days.

The New York Times reported on 20 March that, the day before, four Palestinians had been killed and 18 had been wounded by the Israeli army. On 22 March, according to The Washington Post of 23 March, Israeli soldiers fired on protesters in Tulkarm refugee camp, killing an 11-year-old boy and injuring at least 30 others. The same source also reported that dozens of Jewish settlers from Ariel in the West Bank had driven to the Palestinian village of Bidya, smashed windows and burned trees and tires in a factory courtyard. Israeli sources said the raid had followed a firebomb attack on an Ariel vehicle and the stoning of a bus, neither of which had caused injuries.

According to Agence France Presse, one Palestinian was killed and 12 others were shot and wounded on 23 March in various incidents in Gaza and the West Bank. One Palestinian was deported by Israeli troops to Jordan.

According to a report by the Associated Press, on 25 March four Palestinians were killed and 35 others were injured in some of the bloodiest outbreaks of anti-Israeli protest in the occupied territory. It was reported that 18 Palestinians had suffered gunshot wounds during protests in Gaza and 17 had been injured by rubber bullets in the West Bank.

The New York Times reported on 28 March that, a day earlier, a 4-year-old Palestinian boy had been shot to death during a demonstration in the West Bank village of Kufr Kad. The paper also reported that a freelance Palestinian journalist, Hassan Jibril, had been beaten and shot by Israeli soldiers. Agence France Presse reported on the same date that eight other Palestinians had been injured, three of them gravely.

On 30 March, according to Agence France Presse, 18 Palestinians were shot and wounded in the area of Hebron. On the same date, The New York Times reported that the entire Gaza Strip and several towns and refugee camps in the West Bank were placed under curfew, and that Palestinians in the West Bank were being barred from entering Israel to prevent demonstrations in connection with the Land Day observance. According to The New York Times of 31 March and 2 April, five other Palestinians were shot to death in the occupied territory during the said observance.

As a result of the Israeli policy of armed repression, Palestinian fatalities since the beginning of the intifadah in December 1987 have reached at least 545 by the end of March, based on figures published by the Data Base Project on Palestinian Human Rights. At the same time, the imposition of collective punishment on an increasingly large scale has resulted in massive destruction. According to information collected by the organization just mentioned, over

100,000 trees were uprooted by the Israeli army in 1988. Al-Haq (Law in the Service of Man) has estimated that at least 672 Palestinian homes have been bulldozed since the beginning of the intifadah.

In view of the persistent resort to armed force by Israel, the occupying Power, and the continuing suffering and devastation in the occupied territories, the Committee wishes once again to protest vigorously against these repressive policies and practices, and to reiterate its appeal to you to take all possible measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under occupation and to intensify your efforts towards the 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 have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 37 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Absa Claude DIALLO  
Chairman  
Committee on the Exercise  
of the Inalienable Rights  
of the Palestinian People

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