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LETTER DATED 28 APRIL 1960 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to draw your attention to the recent grave violations of Tunisian territory, committed by the French forces stationed in Algeria, creating a situation the gravity of which threatens good understanding between nations, as well as international peace and security.

Since the month of January 1960, French forces in Algeria have continually directed artillery fire onto Tunisian territory.

Thus on 6, 8 and 25 January 1960, several 105 mm shells fell on Tunisian soil in the region of Ain Drahem and Tabarka. These violations were the subject of three notes of protest to the French Government.

On 6, 7 and 29 February 1960, the same type of shelling was directed onto other points in the same region and was the subject of official protests to the French Government.

On 29 February and 5 and 10 March 1960, French army patrols crossed the Tunisian frontier in the region of Ghardimaou and Ain Drahem and, in withdrawing, took with them some livestock belonging to Tunisian citizens.

On 10 March, a French patrol penetrated deeply into Tunisia near Redeyef, in the course of which raid they carried off a flock of sheep as well as the shepherd, Mustapha ben Mohamed Labidi, a Tunisian citizen.

On 15 March, a French military unit penetrated to Garrakia, in the region of Feriana, and likewise carried off a flock of 190 sheep belonging to Tunisians.

On 20 April, six French B-26 aircraft, coming from Algeria, violated Tunisian air space in the region of Kasserine, and machine-gunned shepherds.

On 22 April, two Tunisian soldiers were killed and two others wounded by concealed explosives placed within Tunisian territory by French commandos coming from Algeria.

On 26 April, the Tunisian post of Bou-Jaber was subjected to heavy machine-gun fire by mechanized units of the French Army.

During the night of 26-27 April, a French B-26 military aircraft, once again violating Tunisian air space, flew over Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef and other inhabited centres, launching rockets on Kalaât Damous Lakhâl, five kilometres to the south of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef. In the region of Souk-el-Arba, another French aircraft coming from Algeria flew over the town of Tabarka, while during the day of 27 April a B-26 aircraft flew over the Tunisian post of Bir El-Gouma in South Tunisia.

In recent days several French military commandos have crossed the frontiers of Tunisia and placed many mines in Tunisian territory, thereby inflicting serious injuries upon Tunisian shepherds.

The Tunisian military authorities have captured seven French soldiers included in such commandos.

Despite the official protests of the Tunisian Government, the situation seems to be becoming more and more serious. The fresh violations of Tunisian air space, and of Tunisian territory by organized units of the French Army, constitute a serious infringement of Tunisian sovereignty. The gravity of the situation thus created, in despite of all the representations made by my Government, might cause the latter to exercise, if necessary, its right of self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

This deterioration of the situation, due to the action of the French forces stationed in Algeria, is calculated to constitute a serious threat to international peace and security in our region of the world.

I therefore have the honour, Mr. President, in the present letter, respectfully to draw your attention to this situation and to ask you to circulate this letter to the members of the Security Council and to publish it as an official United Nations document.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Signed) Mongi SLIM  
Ambassador of Tunisia  
Permanent Representative of Tunisia  
to the United Nations