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CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Huitième session
Point 7 de l'ordre du jour

**LA SITUATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME EN PALESTINE
ET DANS LES AUTRES TERRITOIRES ARABES OCCUPÉS**

**Note verbale datée du 11 juin 2008, adressée au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies
aux droits de l'homme et au Président du Conseil des droits de l'homme
par la Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève**

La Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, Bureau du Président du Conseil des droits de l'homme. Rappelant la lettre* jointe en annexe à sa note n° 417/08, en date du 6 juin 2008, concernant l'état de santé du ressortissant syrien Systan al-Wali, détenu dans les prisons israéliennes depuis plus de vingt-trois ans, la Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne a l'honneur, compte tenu du caractère urgent de cette question pour le peuple syrien, de demander que le texte de la lettre susmentionnée soit distribué en tant que document de la huitième session et soit examiné au titre du point 7 de l'ordre du jour.

* Reproduite en annexe telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale et en anglais seulement.

Annexe

I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the contents of our previous letters regarding the state of health of Syrian prisoner Bisher al-Meket. I would also like to inform you that the state of health of Syrian prisoners is deteriorating daily, due to the inhumane conditions of detention to which these persons are subjected in Israeli prisons.

In this context, I would like to point out that Syrian prisoner Saytan al-Wali, imprisoned for more than 23 years, was suffering from a tumour of an unknown nature in his right kidney. As laboratory tests were unable to determine the nature of the tumour, he had to be transferred from Nafha desert detention centre to hospital. On 12 May 2008, he underwent surgery for the removal of the kidney. This has been confirmed by doctors and the prisoner's family. His family has also confirmed that he has long been suffering from a number of diseases, but Israeli procrastination and delays led to this critical situation in which he now finds himself. It is worth recalling that Syrian prisoner Hayel Abu Zaid had similar symptoms, which resulted in his death from cancer in 2005.

We therefore hold the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for the deterioration in the health of all Syrian prisoners, in particular prisoner Saytan al-Wali, and for all the consequences which may follow. We call upon you to bring pressure to bear on Israel to comply with the applicable norms of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions.

We confirm that the state of health of prisoner Al-Wali requires extensive medical care. We again appeal to you to do your utmost to bring pressure to bear on Israel to allow delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross to intervene promptly and without delay, accompanied by specialist physicians, to assess the state of health of prisoner Al-Wali and save his life, which is in imminent danger.

I am confident that you will make every good endeavour and spare no effort to save the life of prisoner Saytan al-Wali. We appreciate the urgent efforts that you will make to defend human rights and international humanitarian law.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed): Walid al-Moallem
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Doru Romulus Costea
President of the Human Rights Council
