

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
E/CN.4/1984/51  
7 December 1983  
Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fortieth session  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED  
ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-ninth session the Commission on Human Rights adopted on 15 February 1983 resolutions 1983/1 A and B. By paragraph 14 of resolution 1983/1 A the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and the international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report to the Commission at its fortieth session. By paragraph 6 of resolution 1983/1 B the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations, the international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations.
2. In accordance with the request of the Commission the Secretary-General brought resolutions 1983/1 A and B to the attention of all Governments, by note verbale dated 17 June 1983. The resolutions were also brought to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council in document A/38/482. They were communicated to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories and to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People by letters dated 20 June 1983.
3. Furthermore, the resolutions were transmitted to all the specialized agencies and to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, and the League of Arab States were also sent copies of the resolutions.
4. In response to the request of the Commission on Human Rights the Department of Public Information took steps to ensure that resolution 1983/1 A would receive the widest possible publicity.

5. Resolution 1983/1 A of the Commission on Human Rights - its introduction and adoption by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session (31 January - 11 March 1983) - was fully covered in press releases including a round-up, issued at Geneva and at Headquarters in English and French, with world-wide distribution through information centres.

6. Subsequently, the resolution was given full press release coverage when it was considered at the first regular session of 1983 of the Economic and Social Council (3-27 May, New York) and was publicized again during consideration of the Human Rights Commission's report by the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Cultural and Humanitarian).

7. In 1983, the UN Chronicle reported extensively in English, French and Spanish, on matters relating to the question of the occupied Arab territories: January 1983 - Renewed Focus on Israeli Settlements; February 1983 - Over 100 Speak in Debates on Palestine and Mid-East; April 1983 - Troubled Mid-East Again Focus of Council Meetings; May 1983 - Occupied Arab Territories; and June 1983 - Security Council: Reported West Bank Poisoning.

8. The 1983 Yearbook of the United Nations will report on the consideration of the resolution by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

9. The booklet, Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was issued in 1983 in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian.

10. In addition, sections in two booklets - UN Today (Suggestions for Speakers) and Basic Facts about the United Nations - are devoted in part to the problem of the occupied territories.

11. Discussion at the Asian Regional Seminar on the Question of Palestine, held in May 1983 in Jakarta, was reflected in English-language press releases issued locally and reissued at headquarters and sent to the information centres for further dissemination.

12. The general question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories was considered at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine (29 August - 7 September 1983, Geneva), at the five regional meetings that preceded and at DPI-sponsored journalists encounters that preceded the Conference and the regional meetings. For all these meetings press releases were issued locally, in Geneva, and at Headquarters. In addition, publicity was also generated by two DPI news missions which took journalists and broadcasters to the Middle East in April and May 1983.

13. Coverage was provided on films, TV, radio and photographs of General Assembly and Security Council meetings related to the subject. The Committee on Palestinian Rights, the Commission on Human Rights and ECOSOC were also covered.

14. The question was accorded extensive coverage in both radio newscast and radio feature programmes in 11 languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish and Turkish. These programmes included Afakon Alamiya, Week at the UN, Caribbean News Magazine and The UN Week in Review.

15. Television coverage of relevant press conferences relating to the topic recorded on video-cassettes were distributed.
16. All information centres and services were kept abreast of all events and activities relating to the topic. In this connection, centre directors were instructed to undertake special programmes to draw the attention of national communities to the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November).
17. One hundred and seventy five cables devoted to the question of the violation of Palestinian's rights were sent to the field. Wide coverage was given to the international conference - a total of 581 cables were devoted to this event. In addition, information material on the conference was sent to UNICS and widely distributed.
18. Special attention was paid to various aspects of human rights, including the question of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians during the 1983 DPI four week Graduate Student Intern Programme (June/July) which was attended by 87 graduate students from 44 countries. A series of briefings on the topic was given and relevant information material was distributed to participants.
19. The annual DPI Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists which was held in September/October 1983 included in the agenda of briefings and roundtables various items on human rights and the question of Palestine.
20. Four special briefings were given at headquarters on the subject of the international conference to approximately 115 college students.
21. Special attention was devoted to requests for information on United Nations activities pertaining to the question of violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.