



LETTER OF 15 OCTOBER 1953 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA

I have the honor to ask you to be good enough to transmit the following communication to the members of the Security Council:

The Israel police recently expelled eleven Palestinian Arabs and placed them at the frontier of Syrian territory. The victims of this illegal and arbitrary act are natives of the village of Rihaniya in the Safad district; they were forced to relinquish their holdings and to leave their ancestral home.

The expulsion was carried out as follows:

- (1) On 25 September 1953 Mr. Anoir Choumaff and Mr. Khaled Ismail Haroune were taken blindfold from Safad prison;
- (2) On 3 October 1953 one man, four women and four children received the same treatment; they were: Ahmed Mahmoud Chournaff; his daughter Khadijé; Moussa Hassoun Houriyé; Aicha Yousef; Zouleifa, the daughter of Chaban Ahmed; and four children, two of them infants.

Before crossing the Demarcation Line these persons were forced under threats to sign documents in Hebrew, a language they do not know. They were unable even to obtain an explanation of the contents of the documents in question.

The victims of the expulsion had never expressed the wish to relinquish their holdings or to change their residence. They were obliged by force of arms to obey arbitrary and inhumane orders, which contravene the provisions of the Israeli-Syrian General Armistice Agreement, article IV, paragraph 3. Such orders have already been denounced by the resolution adopted by the Security Council on 18 May 1951, of which the sixteenth paragraph, sub-paragraph (b) states that the Security Council "Holds that no action involving the transfer

of persons across international frontiers, armistice lines or within the demilitarized zone should be undertaken without prior decision of the Chairman of the "ixed Armistice Commission".

These acts are of such a nature as to permit of no doubt concerning the Israel authorities' deliberate intention of violating the terms of the Armistice, the conditions of which they accepted in 1949.

(Signed) Rafik Asha,
Permanent Representative of Syria
to the United Nations.

