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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN  
ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND  
DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Note verbale dated 4 December 1989 from the Permanent Mission  
of Lebanon to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed  
to the Centre for Human Rights

1. The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Centre for Human Rights and has the honour to inform it that, on 27 November 1989, Israeli occupation forces, acting in collaboration with the militias of the so-called "South Lebanon Army", opened fire at random on detainees at the Khiyam detention centre in the so-called "security belt" which Israel occupies in South Lebanon, as a result of which two Lebanese citizens were killed and five others wounded. This criminal act was committed when the detainees, numbering more than 400, began a hunger strike after the administration of the detention centre had refused their demands for an improvement in sanitary conditions and in the quality of meals, measures to prevent water from leaking into the cells, and the cessation of the acts of torture and terrorism to which they are subjected every day.
2. The Israeli authorities are attempting to conceal the acts of torture and the crimes and inhuman practices that they are committing in these detention centres. To that end, the Israeli occupation forces and the militias under their control are preventing representatives of the International Red Cross, Amnesty International and other humanitarian organizations from entering those centres to ascertain the tragic situation and the harsh conditions of detention.

3. The Israeli authorities are refusing to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to those detainees on the pretext that the so-called "security belt" is not subject to their control. However, this assertion is refuted by the occupation of that zone by Israeli forces, the support that they are giving to local militias, the numerous declarations by Israeli officials affirming their unwillingness to withdraw from that zone and the recurrent Israeli attacks on United Nations forces, which are being prevented from discharging their task of applying Security Council resolution 425 (1978). These facts are attested in the periodic reports that those forces have issued since that year, and also by other periodic reports issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

4. This is not the first time that Israeli forces and the militias collaborating with them have committed such odious crimes against detainees and the civilian population of the zone that they are occupying in South Lebanon. The Lebanese Government has frequently drawn attention to those inhuman practices and has stressed the need to bring adequate pressure to bear on Israel with a view to their cessation. The Commission on Human Rights has adopted a number of resolutions to this end, the most recent being resolution 65/89 of 8 March 1989.

5. In view of the Israeli authorities' refusal to respond to the appeals of the international community, represented by the Commission on Human Rights, as well as of their refusal to put an immediate end to their violations of human rights in South Lebanon and to withdraw unconditionally from Lebanese territory in compliance with the above-mentioned Security Council resolution 425 (1978), the Commission should take a more resolute stand. The Lebanese Government strongly deplors the latest Israeli crime, as a result of which two Lebanese citizens died and five others were wounded, and once again calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to condemn this further crime and to intensify its endeavours to put an end to the acts of torture, terrorism and ill-treatment that the Israeli forces and the militias collaborating with them in the so-called "South Lebanon Army" are committing against Lebanese detainees at Khiyam and other detention centres in the so-called "security belt" and in Israeli prisons. The Lebanese Government also appeals for pressure to be exerted on the Israeli authorities to enable the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International and other humanitarian organizations to visit those detainees and obtain first-hand knowledge of their situation. The Lebanese Government also requests the Commission on Human Rights to send one of its committees to investigate this crime and the tragic situation from which Lebanese detainees are suffering.

6. The Mission requests that this note be distributed as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights.

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