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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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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 22 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, with reference to its notes 399/15 of 4 December 1989 and 415/15 of 19 December 1989, has the honour to inform the Centre that, since the beginning of December 1989, the Israeli occupation authorities and the militias under their control have been conducting a large-scale campaign of arrests in the Hasbaya area in the so-called "security belt" which Israel occupies in South Lebanon. During this campaign, which has focused on Hasbaya, the administrative centre of the area, they have arbitrarily detained 11 persons, including 3 women, who were transported to the Khiyam detention centre for interrogation, in the course of which they were subjected to various forms of mental and physical torture.

2. The names of these detainees are as follows: Amal Mahfouz, the mother of five children, the eldest being under seven years of age and the youngest an unweaned infant; Fadi Abdul Latif al-Murr and Zaki Abu Hamad, who are first-aid workers employed by the Lebanese Red Cross; Bilal Muhammad al-Murr; Marwan Faiz al-Murr; Muhammad Qasim Abu Salih; Naif Yusuf Abu Asi, who is a soldier in the Lebanese army; Zakariya Muhammad Abu Salih; and Ihsan Maarouf Shahhadeh.

3. The Lebanese Government believes that the campaign of arrests that the Israeli occupation authorities and their militias are conducting among Lebanese citizens reveals Israel's deliberate intention of promoting a climate

of terror and oppression in the area with a view to inducing its population to deal with the occupation forces and submit to the policy of subjugation that those forces are pursuing in that area.

4. The Lebanese Government protests strongly against these Israeli practices, which repeatedly violate the human rights of Lebanese citizens in occupied South Lebanon, and once again calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to condemn this campaign and the acts of torture and terrorism that it involves. The Lebanese Government urges the Commission to exert all its moral authority and bring pressure to bear on Israel to cease this campaign forthwith and to release all the Lebanese detainees that it is holding.

5. The Lebanese Government hopes that the Commission on Human Rights will shoulder its responsibilities, investigate the recurrent Israeli violations of human rights in the territories that Israel occupies in South Lebanon and bring pressure to bear on the Israeli authorities to respect international treaties and conventions, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and permit representatives of the International Red Cross and humanitarian organizations to visit Lebanese detainees at the detention centres that have been established in occupied Lebanese territory and in Israeli prisons in order to ascertain their situation.

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