

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/680
S/13624
13 November 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-fourth session
Agenda item 24
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 13 November 1979 from the Chairman of the Committee
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian
People addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to draw your attention to the recent press reports relating to the arrest of Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus. The reason for this arrest, according to the information given in the press, appears to be the favourable disposition of the Mayor towards the Palestinians, whom the Israeli authorities describe as terrorists, an expression which the same authorities apply to the Palestine Liberation Organization, recognized by the United Nations General Assembly as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

This arrest of an elected official, as well as the impending measure of deportation with which he is threatened, constitutes one more example in the efforts of the Israeli authorities in their repression of Palestinian opinion and their suppression of freedom of expression in the Arab territories under illegal occupation by Israel since 1967. Such a measure of deportation would, moreover, be a direct violation of article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, 1/ which prohibits deportation.

The Committee of which I have the honour to be Chairman has authorized me to express its deep concern in the light of this recent case of violation of international law, which, moreover, clearly indicates Israel's intention of consolidating its hold on the territories which that State illegally occupies. Such actions, which represent a threat to the security and peace of the region, can only aggravate the situation and would make it necessary for the Security Council to take appropriate steps as soon as possible in order to dissuade the

1/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

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Israeli authorities from their intention of arresting and deporting Mayor Bassam Shaka.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 24, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Médoune FALL
Chairman of the Committee
on the Exercise of the Inalienable
Rights of the Palestinian People
