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**Letter dated 24 March 2000 from the Chairman of the
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People to the President of the Security Council**

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour to refer to the summary statement by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration (S/2000/40).

I should like to reiterate the Committee's objection to the deletion from the list of items related to the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the Palestine question and the Middle East problem, which are of special concern not only to the Committee but also to the majority of Member States. The Committee believes that pending a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, the core of which is the question of Palestine, in accordance with international legitimacy, these items should remain on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized, as they continue to engage its responsibility with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should also like to stress our view that any decision to delete these items, especially at this critical point in the peace process, would go well beyond procedural reform and would have far-reaching negative political implications. On behalf of the Committee, I would like once again to express firm hope that decisions of such fundamental importance will be taken in thorough consultation with all the parties concerned.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibra Deguène Ka
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of
the Palestinian People