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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 13 November 1985 from the Chairman of the Committee  
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian  
People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people, I wish to bring to your attention recent information concerning action taken by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians in the occupied territories as a result of the decision to reinstate policies of administrative detention for up to six months without trial, deportation of persons who are considered "security risks", increased censorship and other measures.

According to Ha'aretz and the Jerusalem Post of 29 October 1985 and Al-Fajr of 1 November 1985, the Israel Defence Forces Command in the occupied West Bank issued deportation orders on 28 October against four well-known Palestinian activists from the West Bank. They are Ali Abu Hilal, member of the Executive Committee of the General Confederation of Palestinian Trade Unions; Dr. Azmi Al-Shuabi, a dentist and elected member of the El-Bireh Municipal Council (dissolved by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1982) Hassan Abdul Jawad Farrarjeh, a journalist and head of the Dheisheh refugee camp Youth Centre (closed by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1983); and Zaki Muhammad Abu Steiteh, a former political prisoner released in the May 1985 prisoner exchange.

According to Al-Fajr, those deportations, if carried out, would bring to 25 the number of Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories since the summer. The intended deportations have been protested by numerous groups and individuals both in Israel and abroad.

Meanwhile, arrests without charge have continued and it is estimated that 104 people have now been so detained. Al-Fajr reported on 25 October 1985 that the Israeli authorities had arrested five persons, mainly trade unionists and students, from Nablus, Abu Dis, near Jerusalem, and the town of Dura in the Hebron district.

In protest against detention without charge, all Palestinian administrative detainees went on hunger strike on 14 October 1985, according to Al-Fajr of 18 October 1985. Al-Fajr reported further on 25 October 1985 that relatives of the detainees had held sit-in protests in three Red Cross offices in various towns, demanding that the administrative detention orders be cancelled and expressing concern over bad conditions in the prisons. These complaints were supported by four members of the Israeli Knesset.

It was further reported in Ha'aretz of 28 October 1985 that on 25 October Israel Defence Forces had placed the Palestinian town of Yatta under curfew for 60 hours and conducted door-to-door searches after which two houses were destroyed and several people were arrested.

Ha'aretz of 18 October reported that the Israeli censor had banned distribution for two weeks of the weekly magazine Al-Bayader. According to Al-Fajr of 15 October, the Arab Journalists' Association had charged at a press conference that Israel was engaged in a campaign to silence the Arab press. This had included the closure of the Al-Manar press office and the newspaper Al-Darb, as well as the administrative detention of five journalists and the placement of three others under town arrest.

I bring these developments to your attention in order that you may be kept abreast of the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes to reiterate that such measures are in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the fourth Geneva Convention and the United Nations resolutions regarding the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and pose a serious obstacle to international efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution of the Palestine Question, the core of the Middle East conflict.

In conclusion, I would like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Massamba SARRE  
Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise  
of the Inalienable Rights of the  
Palestinian people

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