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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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Agenda item 24  
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 24 October 1980 from the Chairman of the Committee on the  
Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to the  
Secretary-General

As Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour to refer to the most recent developments in the case of the Mayors of Al Khalil (Hebron) and Halhoul, who were arbitrarily and illegally expelled by the Israeli authorities from the occupied territories last May and who have been refused permission to return to their homes and families in spite of the Security Council's specific request contained in [resolutions 468 \(1980\)](#) and [469 \(1980\)](#).

Earlier this month in response largely to the pressure brought upon it by the international community, the Government of Israel permitted the two mayors to be present at the hearing of their appeal before the Military Review Board. However, as it turned out, they were not permitted to enter the occupied territories but were confined at the border post where the hearing was held.

According to reports, their appeal has been rejected and, while their lawyer attempts to carry their appeal further, they themselves continue to be held in confinement at the border post where, in protest against the unjust treatment meted out to them by the Israeli authorities, they have gone on a hunger strike.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish to express our gravest concern at this further defiance by the Israeli authorities of international opinion and of the resolutions of the Security Council, which no doubt is shared just as strongly by the members of the Council.

We feel it is essential that it should be brought to the notice of the Government of Israel that as a Member State it has certain obligations to this Organization and that such open defiance of the Security Council, the chief organ for the maintenance of international peace and security, is a clear reflection of the cynicism and arrogance on the part of Israel, which is not in keeping with its protestations of good faith and of its desire for peace.

It behoves the international community to protest strongly against these illegal actions of the Israeli authorities and to insist that the mayors should be permitted to return to their homes and families as requested by the Security Council.

I should be glad if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 24, and of the Security Council.

(Signed)        Falilou KANE  
                  Chairman of the  
                  Committee on the Exercise  
                  of the Inalienable Rights  
                  of the Palestinian People

