



**General Assembly  
Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/42/278  
S/18850  
7 May 1987

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Forty-second session  
Item 38 of the preliminary list\*  
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-second year

Letter dated 7 May 1987 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 draw your urgent attention to the recent air raids carried out by the Israeli Air Force against Palestinian refugee camps near Sidon in Lebanon.

According to information published by Agence France Presse (AFP) on 6 May 1987 and corroborated by other press agencies, in the early morning of that day four Israeli fighter-bombers attacked the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh while people were still sleeping, killing eight civilians and wounding 28 others, including several children and women. The AFP correspondent was able to ascertain in person that 10 houses were destroyed and another 15 were severely damaged.

This was reportedly the second attack in less than a week; an earlier raid on 1 May 1987 against the Palestinian refugee camp of Mieh Mieh in the same area resulted in 14 dead and 37 injured persons, again among the civilian population.

In the opinion of the Committee, these attacks against the Palestinian refugee camps have to be seen in the context of the intensification of the measures taken by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, as well as the general military escalation in south Lebanon in recent weeks. The situation that is being created in the area is a most explosive one, which cannot but arouse the greatest concern on the part of our Committee and the international community as a whole.

In light of these grave developments, the Committee wishes to express once again its deep concern at the actions of the Israeli authorities, which continue to heighten tension in the region and pose a serious obstacle to international efforts towards achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, which is at the core of the Middle East conflict.

The Committee therefore wishes to reiterate its appeal to you to continue to do all in your power to promote such a solution, and to bring about the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 38 of the preliminary list, 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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