



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 10 February 1988, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Committee expressed the most serious concern at the increasing use of violence and acts of extreme intimidation by the Government of Israel against the entire Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territories. The full text of the letter is as follows:^{1/}

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express the most serious concern at the increasing use of violence and acts of extreme intimidation by the Government of Israel against the entire Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territories. Events since my letter of 20 January 1988 (A/43/95-S/19441) have shown that, despite international appeals, Israeli authorities have increasingly resorted to collective punishment, such as random beatings, curfews, the closing of schools and mass arrests. Live ammunition is also again being used against Palestinian demonstrators, raising the death toll to at least 50 since last December. The Committee is also gravely concerned at the reported growing involvement of Israeli settlers in acts of violence against the Palestinian population.

"On 27 January 1988, Reuters reported that at least 300 Palestinians had been hospitalized for injuries inflicted in beatings by Israeli troops carrying out the policy announced by the Defence Minister of "Might, force and beatings". Several hundreds of others were also beaten but according to Ha'aretz avoided going to hospitals for fear of being arrested.

"Reuters reported on 27 January 1988 that, since 9 December 1987, Israel had placed 129 Palestinians in administrative detention for six months without trial and a further 1,753 Palestinians were still under arrest, including 577 who have been sentenced to jail term by military courts.

"On 1 February 1988, UPI reported that Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians during demonstrations in Anata, north of Tulkarm, and 13 others were injured by firepower. Two days later, a woman from Anata died from a shotgun wound during the demonstration. A day earlier it was reported that 10 Palestinians in Nablus and 50 others in Shufah near Jerusalem were injured by gunfire. Nablus was placed under curfew for several days.

"The New York Times reported on 8 February 1988 that a day earlier Israeli soldiers firing into a stone-throwing crowd had killed three Palestinians in the village of Beit Umar, south of Bethlehem. A 15-year-old boy from the Gaza Strip died after soldiers reportedly clubbed him on the head and a 10-year-old died overnight of gunshot wounds suffered two days earlier. The newspaper reported also that the toll of killed and wounded on 7 February was the highest in two months of protest, with dozens of Palestinians treated in hospitals for gunshot wounds or severe beatings.

"Reuters reported on 8 February that a Palestinian man from Kafr Qaddum near Nablus was killed that day after being shot in the head. It was also reported that, according to a senior official of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, on 7 February troops took a 15-year-old boy from his home in Bureij refugee camp and beat him. His body was found at

midnight and buried early on Monday. According to Reuters, the killing raised to 50 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli troops in the two months since the uprising began.

"In view of the gravity of the incidents described above, the Committee wishes to reaffirm once again the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 to the occupied Palestinian territories and to appeal to all concerned to do their utmost to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian people under occupation. In this regard, the Committee wishes to express its appreciation for the report submitted by you under Security Council resolution 605 (1987) (S/19443) and for its objective analysis of the situation and the identification of ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. The Committee also expresses its appreciation for the steps you have taken in pursuance of Security Council resolution 605 (1987) and the action you plan to take to help alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation. However, the international community should also take suitable action, including the measures identified in your report to the Security Council, to help ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population.

"Further, the Committee wishes to reiterate its view that, as long as the Palestinian people is prevented from exercising its inalienable rights in accordance with internationally recognized principles and United Nations resolutions, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace will not be achieved in the region. The Committee remains convinced that positive action by the Security Council on its recommendations, and on the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, would advance prospects for a just and lasting settlement of the Palestine question, and reiterates its appeal for the intensification of efforts by all concerned to promote such a settlement.

"I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Question of Palestine", and of the Security Council."

II. SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSES DISTRESS OVER WORSENING VIOLENCE IN WEST BANK AND GAZA

The following statement was made on 8 February 1988 by a spokesman for the Secretary-General:^{2/}

"The Secretary-General is distressed by the worsening violence on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. He deplores the deaths and injuries which have taken place. As indicated in his report, he believes that there is an urgent need for Israel to apply in full the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and that the problem in the occupied territories will not be solved by beatings and gun-fire."

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III. FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TWELVE STATE MEMBERS OF
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ISSUE A STATEMENT ON
THE MIDDLE EAST

The following statement on the Middle East was made at Bonn on 8 February 1988 by the Foreign Ministers of the 12 States members of the European Community 3/:

- "1. The Foreign Ministers of the Twelve had a thorough discussion on the situation in the occupied territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict. They expressed their profound concern at the deteriorating conditions in the occupied territories.
 - "2. The status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable. The Foreign Ministers again stressed their conviction that the only solution is by means of a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as proposed by the Twelve in their 1980 Venice Declaration and their subsequent Declarations.
 - "3. The Twelve reaffirm their strong support for an International Peace Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with their 23 February and 13 July 1987 Declarations, as the suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned. They took note of the wide support given to such a Conference and urge all parties to work for agreement on the convening of it as early as possible. The Twelve will continue to play their full part in these efforts.
- In that perspective they welcome all recent efforts to inject new impetus in the search towards a negotiated settlement to the conflict.
- "4. Without prejudging future political solutions, the Twelve remain determined to work towards improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The Community is pursuing its own development programme for these territories, has granted additional humanitarian aid to their Palestinian population and is determined to promote direct exports of agricultural and industrial products from the territories to the Community market.
 - "5. The Twelve deplore the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories and the diversion of resources to these illegal settlements. They acknowledge the valuable work by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the International Committee of the Red Cross in favour of the Palestinian population in the territories and expect Israel to facilitate the task of those bodies.
 - "6. The Twelve urge Israel fully to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) and with the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. They deeply deplore the repressive measures taken by Israel, which are in violation of international law and human rights. These measures must stop.

They strongly appeal to all parties to exercise maximum restraint in order to reduce the dangerous level of tension in the occupied territories."

IV. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON THE
QUESTION OF PALESTINE AND THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth session adopted the following resolutions on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East ⁴/:

"1988/1. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

A

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Guided also by the provisions of the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights,

"Bearing in mind the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and of The Hague Convention IV of 1907, as well as the principles of international humanitarian law,

"Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, which defined as an act of aggression 'the invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof',

"Recalling all other relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted at regular and special sessions in respect of Israeli violations of the human rights of the population of occupied Arab territories,

"Recalling, in particular, relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988 and 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the fact-finding mission of his envoy, Mr. Marrack Goulding, to occupied Palestine (S/19443), and of relevant reports and resolutions of the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization as well as all reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories,

"Recalling the press release issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva on 13 January 1988 on the expulsion of Palestinian citizens from their homeland,

"Recalling its previous resolutions on Israeli violations of human rights in occupied Palestine,

"Reaffirming its grave alarm at Israel's continued pursuance of the "iron fist" policy in the occupied Palestinian territories, and Israel's crimes of murder, injury, arrest and deportation against Palestinians, its policy of starvation of the camps and its acts involving the breaking of children's and young people's arms,

"1. Reaffirms the fact that occupation itself constitutes a fundamental violation of the human rights of the civilian population of the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine;

"2. Reaffirms that Israel's continuous grave violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 are war crimes and an affront to humanity;

"3. Strongly condemns Israel's policy of physical violence in occupied Palestine, breaking the bones of children, women and men and causing women to miscarry as a result of severe beating;

"4. Strongly condemns Israel's pursuance of the "iron fist" policy and its continued and systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people, including opening fire on children, women and civilian men as well as killing, wounding, arresting and torturing thousands of Palestinians, and the attempts to kidnap Palestinian children by force and transfer them to unknown places, as happened in Dheisheh camp and Khawlah school in Al Bireh on 1 and 3 February 1988;

"5. Firmly rejects and reiterates its condemnation of Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem and to change the architectural character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and considers all these measures and their consequences null and void, and further condemns the confiscation of land and property, the demolition of houses and efforts by Israel to subject the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Israeli laws;

"6. Condemns once again the establishment of Israeli settlements and the arming of settlers to kill Palestinians under the supervision of the occupation authorities in occupied Palestine;

"7. Condemns once again aggression against Islamic and Christian religious holy places, including the repeated attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque with the aim of seizing and destroying it, the obstruction of religious freedoms and practices and the act of opening fire on worshippers, wounding dozens of them in Al-Aqsa Mosque, for example, on 15 January 1988;

"8. Condemns once again the evacuation, deportation, expulsion, displacement and transfer of the Palestinian population and the denial of their right to return to their homeland and the transfer and settlement of alien populations brought from other parts of the world in the place of the original Palestinian owners of the land;

"9. Condemns once again mass arrests, collective punishment, administrative detention and the torture of detainees;

"10. Condemns once again the pillaging of archaeological and cultural property and systematic Israeli repression of cultural and educational institutions, especially universities, schools and institutes, and the expropriation of the natural wealth, water and other resources which belong to the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories;

"11. Calls upon the Israeli authorities to implement forthwith Security Council resolutions 484 (1980) of 19 December 1980 and 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988 as well as previous resolutions calling for the immediate return of the elected mayors to their municipalities and the return to their homeland of all citizens deported by the occupation authorities;

"12. Urges Israel to refrain from policies and practices which violate human rights in the occupied territories;

"13. Requests the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to recommend to the Security Council the adoption against Israel of the measures referred to in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations for its persistent violation of the human rights of the population of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations and the

international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report on the extent of its implementation to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session;

"15. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with all United Nations reports appearing between sessions of the Commission and dealing with the situation of the population of those occupied territories;

"16. Decides to consider this subject at its forty-fifth session as a matter of high priority."

19th meeting
15 February 1988

B

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Recalling Security Council resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 592 (1986) of 8 December 1986 and 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, as well as all its previous resolutions on the application of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 to the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by Israel and the refusal of Israel to abide by those Conventions,

"Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Recalling the decisions of the International Conference of the Red Cross in respect of the application of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

"Recalling the statement of the International Committee of the Red Cross of 13 January 1988 in which it reiterated its protest against the continued violation by Israel of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

"Recalling its previous resolutions on this question,

"Bearing in mind that the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 must be fully applied in all circumstances to all persons protected by those instruments, without any adverse distinction based on the nature or origin of the armed conflict or on the causes espoused or attributed to the conflict,

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"Recognizing that the persistent refusal of Israel to apply the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War creates a situation fraught with danger, and considering that it persists in violating human rights,

"Taking into account that States parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War undertake, in accordance with article 1 thereof, not only to respect but also to ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances,

"1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"2. Strongly condemns once again Israel's systematic refusal to apply that Convention in all its provisions to the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967 and their inhabitants, despite its adherence to that Convention, and its refusal to recognize the applicability of that Convention to those territories;

"3. Once more strongly condemns Israel for its policies of ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli prisons;

"4. Once more urges Israel to grant prisoner-of-war status, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, of 12 August 1949, to all Palestinian fighters captured by Israel, and to treat them accordingly;

"5. Calls upon Israel to abide by and respect the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other principles of international law, in Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem; requests Israel to release all Arabs detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and the liberation of their territories and to accord them, pending their release, the protection envisaged in the relevant provisions of the international instruments concerning the treatment of prisoners of war and, in particular, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and The Hague Convention IV of 1907, and demands that Israel cease forthwith all acts of torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian and Arab detainees and prisoners;

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"6. Urges once more all States parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to make every effort to ensure respect for and compliance with the provisions of that Convention in all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"7. Strongly condemns Israel for the violations of article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War which it has perpetrated by pursuing a policy of deportation and expulsion of Palestinian citizens, as occurred recently in the case of citizens Jibril Mahmoud Rajoub, Hussam Osman Mahmoud Khodr, Bashir Ahmed Khairy and Jamal Abdallah Jabbarah, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to refrain forthwith from the deportation of Palestinians and to rescind the deportation decisions to enable those who were deported to return to their homeland and property;

"8. Urges Israel to co-operate with the International Committee of the Red Cross and to allow it to visit all Palestinian and Arab detainees in Israeli prisons;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations, the international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, and to submit a report on progress in its implementation to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session;

"10. Decides to consider this subject at its forty-fifth session as a matter of high priority. "

19th meeting
15 February 1988

"1988/2. Human rights in occupied Syrian territory

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Guided by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and by the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

"Gravely concerned at the fact that Syrian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967 are still suffering from Israeli military occupation, aggression and continued violation of human rights,

"Recalling Israel's violation of Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations and its refusal to accept and carry out relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel should rescind forthwith its decision,

"Recalling the resolution adopted by the Seventy-first Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Geneva from 2 to 7 April 1984, which condemned all Israeli policies and practices relating to the annexation of occupied Arab territory in Jerusalem and the Syrian Arab Golan,

"Taking note with deep concern of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/42/650),

"Noting with severe disapproval, after having considered the above report, that Israel continues its flagrant violations of human rights in Syrian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, despite the resolutions on occupied territories adopted by the Commission, the Security Council, the General Assembly and other United Nations organs and specialized agencies, condemning Israel for its continued occupation of the Syrian and other Arab territories and calling upon Israel to put an end to its occupation and to implement the above-mentioned resolutions,

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"Affirming its resolution 1987/1 of 19 February 1987,

"Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA/40.12 of 13 May 1987, by which the Assembly affirmed "the principle that acquisition of territories by force is inadmissible and that any occupation of territories by force and the practice of repression and violence against the civilian population as well as acts of deportation have serious repercussions on the health and psychosocial conditions of the people under occupation, including mental and physical health",

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, in which the Assembly defined an act of aggression, inter alia, as "the invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State, or part thereof" and provided that "no consideration of whatever nature, whether political, economic, military or otherwise, may serve as a justification for aggression",

"Recalling previous General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 3414 (XXX) of 5 December 1975, 31/61 of 9 December 1976, 32/20 of 25 November 1977, 33/28 and 33/29 of 7 December 1978, 34/70 of 6 December 1979 and 35/122 E of 11 December 1980, in which it, inter alia, called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories and to withdraw from all those territories,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 36/226 B of 17 December 1981, ES-9/1 of 5 February 1982, 37/88 E of 10 December 1982, 37/123 A of 16 December 1982, 38/79 D of 15 December 1983, 39/146 B of 14 December 1984, 40/161 D to F of 16 December 1985, 41/162 B of 4 December 1986 and 42/160 F of 7 December 1987, relating to the population of the Syrian territory that has been occupied since 1967,

"Reaffirming once again that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, apply to the Syrian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, that have been occupied by Israel since 1967, and calling upon the parties to those conventions to respect their obligations and to make every effort to ensure respect for and compliance with the provisions of those instruments in all circumstances,

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"Reaffirming the resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and other bodies which state that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions,

"Noting that Israel's record, policies and actions and its continued violations of human rights establish conclusively that it is not a peace-loving Member State and that it has not carried out its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations,

"1. Strongly condemns Israel for its persistent disregard for, and defiance of, the provisions of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and all other resolutions relating to occupied Syrian territory adopted by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and strongly deprecates Israel's failure to implement the provisions of these resolutions by ending its occupation and ceasing its repressive measures and violations of human rights;

"2. Deplores Israel's continued refusal to allow the Special Committee access to the occupied Arab territories and to implement General Assembly resolution 2443 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and demands that Israel allow the Special Committee access to the occupied territories;

"3. Declares once more that the continued Israeli occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan and its decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of this territory, constitute an act of aggression under the provisions of Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX), and that the decision of 14 December 1981 is null and void, has no international legal validity or effect, constitutes a grave violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and is in defiance of the international community;

"4. Condemns Israel's persistence in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan;

"5. Strongly deplores the negative vote and pro-Israeli position of a permanent member of the Security Council, which prevented the Council from adopting the "appropriate measures" against Israel, in accordance with

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Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, referred to in resolution 497 (1981), adopted unanimously by the Security Council;

"6. Deplores the inhuman treatment, terror and practices contrary to human rights which the Israeli occupation authorities continue to apply against Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan by reason of their refusal of Israeli nationality and in order to force them to carry Israeli identity cards, which practices constitute a flagrant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the General Assembly and other international bodies and also constitute a threat to peace and international security;

"7. Reaffirms its request to all States Members of the United Nations not to recognize any jurisdiction, laws or measures established by Israel in respect of occupied Syrian and other Arab territories, and calls upon the specialized agencies and other international organizations to conform their relations with Israel to the terms of the present resolution;

"8. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to rescind forthwith its decision of 14 December 1981 and to cease its acts of terrorism directed against Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan in order to impose Israeli citizenship upon them and force them to carry Israeli identity cards, and condemns the Israeli repression of educational institutions in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and the imposition of courses that promote hatred, prejudice and religious intolerance;

"9. Emphasizes that Israel must allow the evacuees from among the Golan population to return to their homes and to recover their property and residences occupied by Israel since 1967, and firmly emphasizes the overriding necessity of the total and unconditional withdrawal by Israel from all Palestinian and Syrian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, which is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all the necessary financial facilities to the Special Committee, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories and to the concerned Arab countries, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations and the international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session ;

"12. Decides to place on the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session, as a matter of high priority, the item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine".

19th meeting
15 February 1988

"1988/3. Situation in occupied Palestine

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 181 A and B (II) of 29 November 1947 and 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 as well as all other resolutions which confirmed and defined the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and notably their right to self-determination without foreign interference,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1865 (LVI) and 1866 (LVI) of 17 May 1974,

"Reaffirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

"Bearing in mind the reports and recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

"Emphasizing once more the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions, and expressing its grave concern that Israel continues to prevent the Palestinian people by force from enjoying their inalienable rights, in particular their right to self-determination, in defiance of the principles of international law, United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community,

"Expressing its grave concern that no just solution has been achieved to the problem of Palestine, which constitutes the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict,

/...

" Reiterating its grave concern at the military, economic and political support given by some States to Israel which encourages and strengthens policies pursued by Israel based on aggression, expansion and continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories,

" Recalling Israel's brutal practices and crimes of genocide against the Palestinian people, and its acts of physical liquidation aimed at eliminating the question of Palestine and hindering the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination, as exhibited in the Sabra and Shatila massacres in September 1982, the continuous air raids on Palestinian camps in Lebanon and the crimes currently being committed by Israel in killing, wounding, detaining, torturing and deporting Palestinians,

"1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination without external interference and the establishment of their independent and sovereign State on their national soil in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions;

" 2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland Palestine and their property, from which they have been uprooted by force;

" 3. Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to regain their rights by all means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with relevant United Nations resolutions, and affirms that the uprising of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation since 8 December 1987 is a form of legitimate resistance, an expression of their rejection of occupation and a consolidation of their unity under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization;

"4. Reaffirms the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to full participation in all efforts and international conferences concerning the question of Palestine and the future of the Palestinian people;

"5. Reaffirms its support for the call to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East, to be attended by the permanent members of the Security Council and the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, and appeals to all States to make further constructive efforts towards the convening of such a conference;

"6. Expresses again its deep regret at the negative attitude of some States, which is hindering the convening of the international peace conference, and calls upon these States to reconsider their attitude towards the question of peace in the Middle East;

"7. Strongly condemns Israel for its continued occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories, which violates the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights;

"8. Calls upon Israel to comply with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and withdraw from the Palestinian and Arab territories which it has occupied since 1967;

"9. Urges all States, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other international organizations to extend their support and assistance to the Palestinian people through their representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in their struggle to restore their rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and with relevant United Nations resolutions;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, prior to the convening of its forty-fifth session, all information pertaining to the implementation of the present resolution;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Government of Israel with a view to its implementation and to report thereon to the Commission at its forty-fifth session;

"12. Decides to place on the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session as a matter of high priority the item entitled "The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation" and to consider, in the context of this item, the situation in occupied Palestine."

29th meeting
22 February 1988

" 1988/66. Situation of human rights in southern Lebanon

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Gravely concerned by the continuation of the acts of aggression and the arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon which constitute a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international Law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and The Hague Convention IV of 1907,

"Recalling its deep regret at Israel's failure to implement Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and 509 (1982) of 6 June 1982,

"Also recalling all the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs declaring that the continued occupation and repeated acts of aggression constitute a violation of both the will of the international community and the conventions in force in this respect,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 1985/41 of 13 March 1985, 1986/43 of 12 March 1986 and 1987/54 of 11 March 1987,

"1. Strongly condemns Israel's persistence in violating human rights manifested in acts of aggression, bombardments of civilian populations, detentions and other arbitrary practices;

"2. Calls upon Israel to put an immediate end to such repressive practices and to implement the above-mentioned resolutions of the Security Council, which require its immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal from all Lebanese territory and respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon;

"3. Calls upon those Governments which are assisting Israel politically, economically and militarily to exert adequate pressures on the Government of Israel to put an end to its aggressive and expansionist policy in southern Lebanon;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) To bring the present resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel and to invite it to provide information concerning the extent of its implementation thereof;

"(b) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session on the results of his efforts in that regard;

" 5. Decides to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in southern Lebanon at its forty-fifth session."

55th meeting
10 March 1988

V. EXCERPT FROM THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY
THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE GULF CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

The final communiqué issued by the eighth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Co-operation Council, which met at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 26 to 29 December 1987, contained the following paragraphs on the question of Palestine 5/:

"The Supreme Council discussed developments in the Palestinian cause and the situation resulting from the continuing Israeli occupation of Arab territories, in the light of the resolutions of Arab Summit Conferences. In this connection, the Council praised the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories against the enemy, its settlement projects and continued violations of the sanctity of the holy places in Palestine. It deplored the oppressive and violent measures taken by the enemy against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and observed with admiration that the valiant resistance and resolute defiance of the Palestinian people under occupation provide a clear indication of the rejection by this Arab fighting people of the fait accompli policy which the Zionist enemy is trying to impose on it as well as of its firm and legitimate commitment to self-determination with a view to preserving its national identity and exercising its national rights on its land and soil.

"The Council stresses its support and backing for this uprising with all the means at its disposal. It also decided to request the Presidency to send letters to the permanent members of the Security Council on this subject, in view of the importance of these events, which constitute a significant development and a qualitative change in the history of the Palestinian people's struggle.

"In this regard, the Council hails the latest Security Council resolution on this subject. It calls upon the international community to assume its full responsibility in dealing with this situation.

"The Council views this upheaval as a new factor, which makes it necessary specifically to convene an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing, and the permanent members of the Security Council, as the only appropriate means of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict in a peaceful, just and comprehensive manner."

VI. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITY AND INFORMATION

An emergency fact-finding delegation of 12 United States citizens travelled to the West Bank and Gaza from 2 to 9 February 1988 under the auspices of the North American Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC). The ethnically mixed delegation, headed by the Vice-Chairman of NACC, included lawyers, educators, local elected officials, activists, journalists and a priest. It met with local residents, lawyers, doctors, trade unionists, community activists, journalists and members of the Israeli peace movement. Stating that what they had seen and heard "exceeded anything they had imagined", the delegation members condemned the Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories and pledged to report their findings in their own cities and throughout the United States "in order to educate the United States public and influence public policy to end the occupation and to assure safety, dignity, equal rights and peace for all people in the Middle East."

A team of United States medical experts, members of the Physicians for Human Rights, an independent monitoring group based at Boston, accused Israel of allowing unrestrained violence by the army and the police in suppressing the two-month wave of Palestinian unrest in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The four experts - three doctors from the faculty of the Harvard Medical School and a fourth from the City University of New York - said at a news conference that they estimated that several thousand Arabs had suffered bone fractures and other wounds from beatings by soldiers and police since the uprising began in early December.

A fact-finding mission to Israel and the occupied territories was undertaken by a Nordic delegation sponsored by the European Co-ordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ECC) between 25 and 29 January, and was composed of the following personalities: Mr. Andreas Sjaastad, M.P., Conservative Party, former Minister of Defence, Norway; Mr. Karl-Erik Svartberg, M.P., Social Democratic Party, Chairman of the Swedish United Nations Association, Sweden; Mr. Jolger Graversen, M.P., Social Democratic Party of Denmark; Mr. Jens Clausager, General Secretary, Social Liberal Party of Denmark, former Secretary-General of CENYC; Mr. Jörn Donner, M.P., Swedish People's Party and film director, Finland; and Mr. Mikko Lohikoski, Chairman of the European Co-ordinating Committee.

The delegation visited refugee camps and hospitals, and met with victims of the Israeli violence, the Red Crescent Society of Gaza, officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, Israeli politicians and representatives of the peace movement. The delegation transmitted to the Israeli authorities its concern over Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories. It also stressed the urgent need for medical relief and for mobilizing international public opinion.

The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) called on European Economic Community (EEC) to impose trade sanctions against Israel in retaliation for its oppression in the occupied territories and to pressure the Israelis to negotiate a Middle East settlement.

Dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians has never been so necessary; without it there can be no solution to the crisis in the occupied territories. That was the line taken by the International Human Rights Federation delegation in Paris on 22 February, just back from a tour of Israel from 14 to 19 of that month.

On 2 February 1988 the International Committee for Palestinian Human Rights sent a message to the United States Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz, expressing disappointment at the United States veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution calling, inter alia, on Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention and to put an end to practices which violated the human rights of the Palestinian people.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers reported that in January 1988 it had participated in three fact-finding missions composed of lawyers from France, Spain and the Federal Republic of Germany. The mission participants condemned the unprecedented measures of repression to which the Palestinians had been subjected.

The Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip issued the following international appeal:

"We have felt that the international community is standing by us during this uprising, ready to support our struggle for the political rights to which every people is entitled. The Palestinian people need to be free from Israeli occupation. They need to exercise their right to self-determination. They need to establish their Palestinian State in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. It can be achieved by generating national and international pressure on Israel and its patron the United States through the will of the international community. The Palestinians are defending their rights. Support them."

The Western European parliamentarians associated with the Al Awdah boat mission issued the following statement:

"As members of national parliaments from Belgium, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy and Malta, of all shades of political opinion, we are proud to be associated with Al Awdah peace boat mission. In common with other European, North and Latin Americans and, most significantly Israelis, we came compelled by our conscience to demonstrate peacefully our support for the right of return of all Palestinians to their native land, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, and in particular on behalf of all those deported in contravention of the Geneva Conventions. Our entirely peaceful mission has provoked violent opposition from the Israeli Government, culminating in the damage done to the boat in Limassol. This act of terrorism clearly shows which party seeks a peaceful solution and which opposes it.

"We associate ourselves with the recent statement by the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation expressing its full support for the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza in pursuit of the just claim to a Palestinian National State. We call for an immediate end to the Israeli military occupation and for an international conference under United Nations auspices with the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)."

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The America-Israel Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (AICIPP) co-ordinated meetings with members of the United States Congress on 29 February 1988, under the theme: "Let's tell Congress that we believe that peace for Israel and freedom for Palestinians are indivisible".

The Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC) participated in demonstrations every week in the Chicago area. A major prayer service was attended by over 600 people there. PHRC action alerts were distributed to all chapters and to opinion shapers. Over one half of the PHRC Board members authored opinion articles for various newspapers and participated in special programmes. Three members of the Board participated in fact-finding missions to the occupied territories.

The Canadian Arab Federation (CAF) continued its work to change government policy, including letters to Canadian government officials from its 25 affiliated organizations, and sent letters to editors of major newspapers.

The women and friends of Women Concerned about the Middle East (NAJDA) were involved in at least three demonstrations per week in the San Francisco Bay area. They found innovative ways to educate people about the support that the United States provides Israel. They sponsored several gatherings advocating no more United States tax dollars for the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. NAJDA supported the city of Berkeley becoming a sister city with a Palestinian town.

The Presbyterian Church USA has made the Middle East its study priority for a five-year period. It has undertaken dozens of projects throughout the United States and collaborated with other NGOs. It has also created a Middle East network within the Church.

The Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC) recently changed its name from the "November 29 Coalition for Palestine". PSC has undertaken emergency work in all of its 25 chapters emphasizing action alerts and statements calling for the end of the occupation and an end of United States funding of the occupation.

Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) undertook many activities in co-operation with other organizations. It plans a national rally in Washington at the United Jewish Appeal Convention which coincides with the ADC Convention.

Notes

1/ A/43/132-S/19490.

2/ SG/SM/4080.

3/ A/42/131-S/19487.

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 2 (E/1988/12-E/CN.4/1988/88.

5/ A/43/123.
