



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

In a letter dated 5 July 1989, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/1011-S/20714), the Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People protested in the strongest terms the renewed deportations of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory by Israel, the occupying Power. The full text of the letter read as follows:

"In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People I wish to protest in the strongest terms the renewed deportations of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory by Israel, the occupying Power.

"According to the ABC television network of 29 June and The New York Times of 30 June 1989, the following eight Palestinians were deported to southern Lebanon on 29 June 1989: Mr. Ata Abu Karsh, Mr. Nabil Tamuz, Mr. Riyadh Adhur and Mr. Mohammed Madawah from the Gaza Strip; Mr. Mohammed Lebadi, Mr. Radwan Ziada, Mr. Akef Hamdallah and Mr. Taysir Naserallah from the West Bank. The deportations were carried out after their court appeals were rejected. The men were accused of being leaders of the intifadah or of being active in the Palestine Liberation Organization. As in all such cases, the men and their lawyers were not allowed to review the evidence brought against them.

"These latest deportations have brought to at least 59 the total number of Palestinians deported since the beginning of the intifadah. Israel has continued to violate its obligations as the occupying Power under the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and to defy the international will as expressed in Security Council resolutions 607 (1988) and 608 (1988), which have specifically requested Israel to desist from further deportations, to rescind the deportation orders, and to ensure the safe and immediate return of those already deported.

"These latest measures by Israel take place in a situation of growing repression by the Israeli troops and of violence and provocation by armed Israeli settlers, which our Committee has repeatedly condemned and which arouse serious international concern. Such unrestrained attacks by the occupation forces can only exacerbate the situation further and pose grave obstacles to ongoing efforts to advance the peace process.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes once again to call on the international community as a whole, and the Security Council in particular, to take urgently all necessary measures to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolutions by Israel, the occupying Power."

II. THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

On 6 July 1989, the Security Council met to consider "the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, in particular the deportation of Palestine civilians from the occupied Palestinian territory." The request for the meeting was contained in a letter dated 30 June from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the President of the Security Council, acting in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab group for the month of July (S/20709).

On 6 July 1989, the Security Council voted on a draft resolution sponsored by Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia. The text, which was adopted by 14 votes in favour to none against with one abstention (the United States of America), reads as follows (resolution 636 (1989)):

"The Security Council,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988 and 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988,

"Having been apprised that Israel, the occupying Power, has once again, in defiance of those resolutions, deported eight Palestinian civilians on 29 June 1989,

"Expressing grave concern over the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories,

"Recalling the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and in particular articles 47 and 49 thereof,

"1. Deeply regrets the continuing deportation by Israel, the occupying Power, of Palestinian civilians;

"2. Calls upon Israel to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territories of those deported and to desist forthwith from deporting any other Palestinian civilians;

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

"4. Decides to keep the situation under review."

III. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT SECOND REGULAR SESSION
OF 1989 ADOPTS TWO RESOLUTIONS AND TWO DECISIONS
CONCERNING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

At its second regular session of 1989, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following resolutions and decisions relating to the question of Palestine:

"Resolution 1989/96. Assistance to the Palestinian people

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/178 of 20 December 1988,

"Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/54 of 26 July 1988,

"Taking into account the intifadah of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory against the Israeli occupation, including its economic and social policies and practices,

"Affirming that the Palestinian people cannot develop their national economy as long as the Israeli occupation persists,

"Gravely concerned at the serious repercussions, especially for Palestinian children, of Israeli practices, in particular the prolonged blanket closure in the West Bank of Palestinian institutions of learning, including kindergartens, schools operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and other schools,

"Rejecting Israeli restrictions on external economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory,

"Aware of the increasing need to provide economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people,

"Noting with regret that a full report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 43/178 has not been prepared,

"1. Expresses its appreciation to the States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided assistance to the Palestinian people;

"2. Requests the international community, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people, in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization;

"3. Requests the United Nations Children's Fund and other appropriate United Nations bodies to address the special needs of Palestinian children suffering from Israeli practices and their repercussions;

"4. Calls for the immediate reopening of all Palestinian institutions of learning;

"5. Also calls for the immediate lifting of Israeli restrictions and obstacles hindering the implementation of assistance projects by the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations bodies and others providing economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory;

"6. Further calls for the implementation of development projects in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the facilitation by all concerned of the establishment of the cement plant referred to in General Assembly resolution 39/223 of 18 December 1984;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to report in full on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 43/178 and the present resolution to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session."

35th plenary meeting
26 July 1989

"Resolution 1989/86. Israeli economic practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly decision 40/432 of 17 December 1985, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the financial and trade practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

"Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/65 of 28 July 1988 and General Assembly decision 43/430 of 20 December 1988,

"Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on Israeli trade practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, 1/ and on Israeli financial and trade practices in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, 2/

"Taking into account the fact that land and water are basic national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

"1. Takes note with concern of the reports of the Secretary-General on Israeli trade practices in the occupied Palestinian territories and on Israeli financial and trade practices in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, prepared in pursuance of General Assembly decisions 40/432 and 43/430 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/65;

1/ A/44/277-E/1989/82.

2/ A/44/338-E/1989/118.

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session through the Economic and Social Council."

35th plenary meeting
26 July 1989

"Decision 1989/172. Documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of human settlements

"At its 35th plenary meeting on 26 July 1989, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its twelfth session, including the report of the Commission on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; 1/

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (E/1989/98)."

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/44/8) and addendum.

"Decision 1989/173. Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

"At its 35th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1989, the Economic and Social Council took note of the interim report on assistance to the Palestinian people, prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). 1/"

1/ E/1989/113.

IV. UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST DISTRIBUTES FLOUR TO GAZA FAMILIES

NEW YORK, 24 July (UNRWA Liaison Office) -- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has begun a major food distribution in the Israeli occupied Gaza Strip. Over the next 8 to 10 weeks, virtually every family in the Gaza Strip, except those of UNRWA employees, will be receiving 50 kilograms of flour.

A total of 6,700 tonnes of flour will be distributed to an estimated 134,000 Palestinian families in Gaza, including some not registered with UNRWA. The operation will cost some \$2.3 million.

This one-time distribution of flour, a basic component of the Palestinian diet, is aimed at providing the people of the Gaza Strip with special assistance and support at a time of serious need. Economic conditions in Gaza have been deteriorating steadily. In addition to frequent curfews and strikes, travel restrictions on workers from Gaza have sharply reduced family incomes.

The flour distribution is one of several measures through which UNRWA is working to alleviate hardship in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. Over the past 18 months, UNRWA relief and medical programmes in the occupied territories have been significantly expanded.

Using funds and commodities specially contributed for the purpose, the Agency spent \$14 million on emergency measures in the occupied territories in 1988 and has identified needs - not including the special Gaza flour distribution -- costing a further \$22.4 million in 1989.

However, the funds needed for 1989 have not yet been fully raised and UNRWA is urgently seeking additional resources to cover the costs of these special measures through the end of this year and, if needed, beyond (see PAL/1715).

V. EXCERPT FROM THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD AT BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN ON 3 AND 4 JULY 1989

"The foreign Ministers viewed with concern the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict. They reiterated their full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination, and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over their occupied territories. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the Declaration of Independence and the Political Programme adopted by the Palestinian National Council at its 19th Extraordinary Session held in Algiers last year.

The Foreign Ministers called for renewed efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement by negotiations. Towards this end, they expressed support for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations with the full participation of the PLO. The Foreign Ministers took note of the continuing uprising in the occupied territories and were of the view that it underlined the need for an early settlement." (see A/44/145-S/20749, p. 10)

VI. UNITED NATIONS SPONSORS NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENCOUNTERS ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE FOR NORTH AND LATIN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/175 C of 20 December 1988, a North and Latin American regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine was held at Kingston from 25 to 28 July 1989. The regional encounter was preceded by a series of national encounters held at Bogota on 19 July; at Quito on 21 July; and at Santiago on 24 July.

The objective of the encounters was to promote better understanding of the question of Palestine among leaders of the media by bringing them together with experts on the subject for brief, in-depth, informal and candid discussion.

Regional encounter

The following panelists were invited to address the participants: H.E. Dr. Tom Obaleh Kargbo, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations; Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations; Mr. Paul N. McCloskey, former United States Congressman; and, Mr. Moshe Amirav, Secretary, Israeli Council of Peace and Security. The encounter was moderated by Mr. Joe B. Sills, Director, Communications and Project Management Division, Department of Public Information.

A total of 18 journalists representing the press, radio and television media of 11 nations participated in the encounter. The following topics were addressed: historical review of the origins of the Palestinian question; the United Nations and the question of Palestine; the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; Israel and the question of Palestine; and prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The event was attended by a number of representatives of non-governmental organizations and foreign embassy officials based in Kingston. During the course of the encounter, panelists had the opportunity to give individual radio interviews to participants.

National encounters

The panel at the three national encounters comprised Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi and Mr. Moshe Amirav and proceedings were moderated by Mr. Mahoud El-Said of the Department of Public Information.

At Bogota, some 70 journalists, senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and foreign ambassadors attended the event which was fully covered by national Colombian television. Both panelists were also interviewed on a separate occasion by Colombian television.

At Quito, some 30 journalists, representatives of non-governmental organizations and foreign diplomats attended and participated in the encounter. The panelists were interviewed on a separate occasion by Ecuadorian television.

At Santiago, some 40 journalists, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, and senior Chilean and foreign Ministry officials attended the event and participated in the debate. Two Chilean television channels covered the encounter and individual interviews were given to both panelists and the moderator at the conclusion of the event.

Debates at all events, whether regional or national, were lively, frank and objective. Journalists were of the view that the encounters had gone far in promoting understanding of the background and current status of the question of Palestine and as a result of information received, they would be filing articles on the subject in the future with better understanding. While many participants expressed appreciation for the participation of Mr. Amirav, they would have been grateful for the presence of an official Israeli representative. It was explained that the Department of Public Information had always invited the Israeli Government to nominate a panelist to present the Israeli position at such events. No reply, however, had even been received.

VII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of July the following information was received by the Division for Palestinians Rights:

1) "The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs", July 1989, Vol. VIII, no. 3. Available from P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009.

2) "Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights", June 1989. The issue includes material on human rights violations during the uprising as well as a list of Palestinians killed by Israeli occupation forces. Available from: Arab Studies Society, Palestine Human Rights Information Centre, P.O. Box 20479, Jerusalem; or, HRREF Data Base Project, 1 Quincy Court, Suite 1308, Chicago, Il. 60604.

3) International Progress Organization, June 1989, report on the situation of human rights in Palestine with special focus on children and juveniles. Issued by the Delegation of Inquiry of the International Committee for Palestinian Human Rights to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Available from IPO, A-1010 Vienna, Kohlmarkt 4.

4) "Israeli-Palestinian Digest", July 1989. Available from JCIPP, P.O. Box 4991, Washington D.C. 20008.

5) "Democratic Palestine", issue no. 33, June 1989. Available from Box 30192, Damascus.

6) "Solidarité Palestine", Numéro 55, Juin 1989. Bulletin Bimestriel de l'Association Médicale Franco-Palestinienne, 14 Rue de Nanteuil, 75015 Paris.

7) International Association of Democratic Lawyers, reports of missions carried out in the occupied territories from 2 to 5 May and from 1 to 11 June 1989. Available from IADL, 263 Avenue Albert, 1180 Brussels.

8) "Another Viewpoint", publication of AVP, a non-profit, non-partisan monthly forum for constructive ideas and commentary. Available from 604 Barbera Place, Davis, California 95616.

9) "Afro-Asian Solidarity", quarterly published by Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, 89, Abdel Ariz Al-Seoud Street, Manial El-Roda, Cairo.

10) "Israel and Palestine Political Report", July issue, published by MAGELAN, 5 Rue Cardinal Mercier, 75009 Paris.
