



## DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

November 1990

### Volume XIII, No. 11

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## I. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 29 November 1990, the International Day of Solidarity was observed at United Nations Headquarters, New York, and at Geneva, Vienna, as well as several other cities.

All States Members of the United Nations, specialized agencies and observers were invited to attend the solemn meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People which took place at United Nations Headquarters in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977.

At that meeting, statements were made by: Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Guido de Marco (Malta), President of the General Assembly; and, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Chief of the Division for Palestinian Rights read out a message from Thomas R. Pickering (United States of America), President of the Security Council for the month of November, and the Observer for Palestine, Mr. Nasser Al-Kidwa, read out a message from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Statements were also made by: Mohammad A. Abulhasan, as representative of Sheik Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, Chairman of the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference; Daya Perera (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories; Darko Silovic (Yugoslavia), representative of the Chairman of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries; Abulmarek Ismail Mohamed, Observer for the League of Arab States; and Jeanne Butterfield, the representative of the International Co-ordinating Committee for Non-governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine.

A concluding statement was made by the Chairman.

Messages to commemorate the occasion were received from 27 heads of State, 9 heads of Government, 9 Foreign Ministers, 2 Governments, as well as the representatives of 2 intergovernmental and 3 non-governmental organizations.

All statements and texts of messages received will be published in extenso in a special bulletin prepared by the Division for Palestinian Rights.

In further commemoration of the International Day, the Committee arranged the screening of a series of films during the

week beginning 29 November in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium.--

At the request of the Committee, in still further commemoration of the International Day, the office of the Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations presented an exhibit in co-operation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which was displayed in the Public Lobby at United Nations Headquarters from Thursday, 29 November to Wednesday, 5 December 1990.

## II. SECURITY COUNCIL CONTINUES CONSIDERATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

On 7, 9 and 16 November, the Security Council continued consideration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

On 9 November, the Security Council viewed a bystander's videotape of events that took place at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. At that meeting, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People made the following statement:

"I thank the members of the Council for having given me the opportunity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to participate once again in the Council's important debate on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"The dispatch with which the Council was convened indicates that the ongoing deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories is of major concern to the members of the Council and to the international community as a whole. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is therefore entitled to hope that this debate will culminate in a clear and firm demonstration of the Council's determination to find the ways and means to provide effective and efficacious protection for the Palestinian civilian population.

"I personally am especially convinced that a close examination of the objective and thorough report submitted by the Secretary-General has provided a better understanding of the imperative need to meet the challenge issued by Israel and to take all steps necessary to accelerate the process of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict and, thereby, the Palestine question.

"I wish therefore to pay a well-deserved tribute to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, for this very useful working tool he has provided and for his tireless and ceaseless efforts to help find a just and peaceful solution to this problem.

"We are grateful to him for this valuable report, which was prepared under particularly arduous circumstances because of the refusal of the Israeli authorities to facilitate his task, contrary to the recommendations in resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990).

"In his report, the Secretary-General emphasized the need to reach a political solution to this conflict. This is a recommendation which simply must be implemented, because the intifadah, which has been going on for about three years, has clearly shown us that the Palestinians are resolved to put an end to Israeli occupation and to exercise their legitimate political rights, particularly the right to self-determination and independence. In my various statements before the General Assembly and the Security Council as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I, too, have never failed to emphasize the urgent need to reach a negotiated, just and lasting settlement to the problem of the Middle East, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions. We agree with the Secretary-General that in the current circumstances it is essential to proceed immediately to set up a genuine negotiating process which is both effective and acceptable to all.

"All the members of the Council will, I think, agree with me that we no longer have any right to procrastinate, because by adopting resolution 44/42 almost unanimously on 6 December 1989, the General Assembly reaffirmed the essential principles which should lead to a just and lasting solution of the question of Palestine. This resolution, I need hardly recall, reiterates the call for the speedy convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council based on resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination. This resolution likewise recalled that the achievement of comprehensive peace must necessarily be based on: Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including

Jerusalem, and from the other occupied Arab territories; guaranteeing arrangements for security of all States in the region, including those named in General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, within secure and internationally recognized boundaries; resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 and subsequent relevant resolutions; dismantling the Israeli settlements in the territories occupied since 1967; and guaranteeing freedom of access to Holy Places, religious buildings and sites.

"In its report, which was recently adopted, and which will shortly be submitted to the General Assembly, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People expresses full support for the efforts made by the permanent members of the Security Council to find some common ground between the parties to the conflict, to create a climate of trust among them and thus to facilitate the convening and successful culmination of an international peace conference.

"The Committee is sure that, with the same degree of political will which was recently demonstrated, the Security Council can reach a consensus on all the important issues of concern to the international community in the field of international peace and security. This is why I would like to urge the Council to act with the same ardour and determination in order to find a just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core element, the question of Palestine.

"To that end, the Security Council should spare no effort to put an end to the dangerous diplomatic deadlock which is paralysing the efforts currently being made to promote peace and security for the civilian population in the occupied Palestinian territory. In this connection, the Committee deplores Israel's continual resort to military force in its indiscriminate and unrelenting repression of the Palestinian uprising, as well as the attitude of defiance demonstrated by the Israeli authorities towards the international community.

"It is no longer necessary for me to repeat the details of the latest tragic events. The statements already made on this subject and the observations contained in the Secretary-General's report are eloquent proof of the seriousness of the situation. Nor do I need to emphasize that intensification of the intifadah is essentially due to the intransigence of the occupying Power, its acts of

violence and persecution and the current diplomatic deadlock. Nevertheless, I cannot shirk my duty to condemn once again the armed attack by Israel in Al-Haram Al-Shareef, because this unfortunate event, which caused more than 20 deaths among the Palestinians, was followed by increased repression in the occupied territories, during which at least 10 other Palestinians were killed and many hundreds of innocent people were injured.

"Just one week ago, on 2 November, the populations in the Gaza Strip carried out demonstrations to protest against the death under dubious circumstances of a Palestinian in a cell in the central prison in that area. The very next day, the entire Gaza Strip was declared an armed military zone, and access to it was prohibited to journalists without special authorization.

"These arbitrary and provocative steps have prompted confrontations between the local populations and the Israeli forces, as a result of which at least 200 Palestinians have been injured.

"Since its establishment by the General Assembly 15 years ago, our Committee has constantly maintained that if no outcome could be found to the diplomatic and political deadlock, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory would necessarily deteriorate and the violence would worsen, with unforeseeable consequences for peace and security in that area.

"Moreover, the Committee has always emphasized that the main obstacle to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is essentially the stubbornness of Israel in its efforts to continue its occupation of Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and the other Arab territories, as well as its obstinate denial to the Palestinians of any opportunity to exercise their inalienable national rights.

"Israel must nevertheless realize that the prolonged occupation, the repression of the Palestinian populations and the progressive annexation of their territories will never be able to guarantee the security of their State but, rather, will contribute to increasing the bitterness, the despair and the spirit of resistance of the Palestinian people.

"Our Committee believes that it is absolutely essential to find a way to cut the vicious circle of violence and re-establish order, peace and security, which will be in the interests of both the Palestinian people in the occupied

territories and the Israeli people. Nevertheless, it is clear that the acts of violence and brutality will not cease until reason and tolerance prevail over blind passion and the taste for vengeance or domination. It is high time, therefore, to take steps to create climate that favours negotiation - that indispensable stage in the efforts to bring about an overall political settlement of the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian problem.

"It is for all these reasons, and prompted by a strong desire to contribute to the promotion of a peace process, that the Committee once again urges the Security Council to set up as a matter of urgency a system that will ensure the effective protection of the Palestinian people in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

"As the Secretary-General emphasized in his report, and as was also stated in the report prepared by the Al-Haq organization, which has been distributed as an addendum to that document, the Palestinians' distrust of the occupying authorities is now so deep that in their opinion only an impartial presence, properly mandated by the United Nations, would be able to provide them with a credible sense of protection.

"In the light of these comments, the Committee believes that it is the duty of the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to find the necessary means of ensuring respect for that Convention by Israel, as the occupying Power.

"As for the Security Council, the Committee expects it to take appropriate, specific steps on the same lines, because Israel's outright rejection of Security Council resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990) undoubtedly constitutes a challenge that calls into question its credibility.

"The Committee is convinced that in the present context the Council has already given the world proof of its ability to fulfil its lofty mission to maintain international peace and security, and that it will not allow its authority to continue to be flouted, for there is, after all, the danger that world equilibrium may crumble, with all the hopes aroused by the end of the cold war and the beginning of a new era of common understanding.

"The Committee therefore hopes that this debate will lead to the adoption of a resolution that will guarantee the Palestinian populations effective protection and represent a decisive step on the way to a comprehensive solution of the crisis in the Middle East.

"In conclusion may I say, paraphrasing Elie Wiesel and Tahar Ben Jelloun, that it is high time to redress the injustice committed with regard to the Palestinian people, that people fated to be shattered.

"It is high time to move beyond the stage of hoping and save the common future of the people of this holy land, which will, I hope, as in the prophetic vision of Isaiah, become like an Eden where

"'They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.' (The Holy Bible, Isaiah 11:9)". (See S/PV.2954)

### **III. SECRETARY-GENERAL CONSIDERS FAVOURABLY THE IDEA OF SENDING PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**

On 20 November 1990, the following statement was issued by the spokeswoman for the Secretary-General (SG/SM/4519):

"The Secretary-General, who returned to New York today, is considering favourably the idea of sending his Personal Representative, Jean-Claude Aimé, to Israel and the occupied territories. This idea was discussed by the Secretary-General with a number of dignitaries in Paris, among whom was the Israeli Foreign Minister.

"The Secretary-General continues to be deeply concerned about the situation in the occupied territories and, accordingly, feels that a visit by his envoy might be useful. At the same time, it should be recalled that the Secretary-General does not, as a rule, intervene in matters with which the Security Council is seized. He would not wish, in this connection, to prejudice the outcome of the deliberations of the Council which, at present, has on its agenda the situation in the occupied territories. A visit by Mr. Aimé will most probably take place following the current consideration of this matter by the Council."



#### IV. UNRWA DEPLORES RECENT UPSURGE OF VIOLENCE IN GAZA STRIP

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 5 November 1990:

"According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), one Palestinian was killed and over 300 wounded by the Israeli Army during violent confrontations in the Gaza Strip over the weekend. These were the fiercest confrontations in Gaza since 20 May this year, UNRWA stated, when clashes erupted following the killing of seven Gazan workers in Israel.

"Rioting was triggered by rumours that a Palestinian detainee from Beit Hanoun had been killed in his Gaza prison cell, the Agency said. The Israeli authorities claimed that he had committed suicide. Clashes spread out from Beit Hanoun to other refugee camps and were particularly violent in Jabalia and Rafah camps.

"In Jabalia camp, army patrols positioned themselves in front of the UNRWA health centre, making it difficult for UNRWA ambulance personnel to evacuate the injured, UNRWA said. Helicopters dropped tear-gas and stones on demonstrations. In Rafah, tear-gas was fired into the compounds of the Al-Quds secondary school. Some 90 schoolgirls were treated in an UNRWA clinic for gas inhalation. The UNRWA registered a total of 306 casualties, 124 of them injured by live ammunition.

"In a statement issued on 5 November at its headquarters, UNRWA said it deplored the strong measures used by the Israeli authorities to control demonstrations. 'Such measures seem more likely to contribute to the violence rather than to quell it', the statement said." (See PAL/1738)

**V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:  
ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION**

In the course of November, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. Palestine, Palestine Liberation Organization information bulletin, fortnightly supplement of Falestine Al-Thawra, the central organ of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Available from: 13 Botsari Street, Nicosia, Cyprus.
2. The Other Front, weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, published by the Alternative Information Center, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.
3. Middle East International, available from: 1700, 17th Street, N.W. No. 306, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.
4. Palestine and Law, review of the International Standing Committee of Lawyers on the Question of Palestine and Peace in the Middle East. Available from: Secretariat of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, 263 Avenue Albert, 1180 Brussels, Belgium.
5. Educational Network, newsletter concerning education in the occupied territory. Available from: Friends Schools, P.O. Box 66, Ramallah, West Bank via Israel.
6. Women's Organization for Women Political Prisoners, semi-annual reports containing testimonies of women detainees in the Russian Compound Detention Centre in Jerusalem and a description of the organization's activities. Available from: P.O. Box 8537, Jerusalem 91083.
7. WAFA, monthly newsletter of the Palestine News Agency, Inc. Available from: National Press Building, Suite 1265, 529 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20045, United States of America.
8. Middle East Witness, message from the Organization concerning recent killings in Jerusalem. Further information available from: 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, United States of America.
9. The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, available from: P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

10. The Other Israel, newsletter of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Available from: P.O. Box 956 Tel Aviv, Israel 61008.
11. Al Hadaaf Newsletter, available from: P.O. Box 169, 30010 UMM El Fahm, Israel.
12. News from Within, monthly bulletin analysing developments in Palestinian society, the intifadah and Israeli occupation policy. Available from: the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.
13. The Palestinian, monthly publication of the Association of Palestinian-Arab Canadians, Capital Region, available from: P.O. Box 2605, Station "D", Ottawa, Ontario, K1P5W7 Canada.
14. NACC Newsletter, published by the North American Co-ordinating Committee for Non-governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine. Available from: 1747 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.
15. Breaking the Siege, newsletter of the Middle East Justice Network. Available from: P.O. Box 558, Cambridge, MA 02238, United States of America.
16. The Israeli Army and the Intifadah, Policies that Contribute to the Killings, a Middle East Watch Report, available from: Human Rights Watch, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017-6104, or 1522 K Street, NW # 910, Washington, D.C. 20005, United States of America.
17. ADC Times, news and opinions of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Available from: 4201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20008, United States of America.
18. Palestine Human Rights Information Center, Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, Survey of Human Rights Violations and their Context as of October 1990. Available from: Palestine Human Rights Information Center of the Arab Studies Society, P.O. Box 20479, Jerusalem, or, PHRIC International 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 930, Chicago, IL 60640, United States of America.
19. B'TSELEM, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. Information sheet containing information on the closure of schools and other setbacks to the education system in the occupied territories. Available from: 18 Kenen Hayesod Street, Jerusalem, 92149.

20. Middle East Justice Network, Israel and Palestine, a Congressional Report Card. Available from: P.O. Box 558, Cambridge, MA 02238, United States of America.

21. Les Palestiniennes Déportées, document prepared by the Association pour l'union entre les peuples juif et palestinien. Available from: Case postale 43, 1247 Aniènes, Geneva, Switzerland.

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