



**DIVISION FOR
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS**

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**I. SECURITY COUNCIL DEPLORES ISRAELI
EXPULSION OF PALESTINIANS**

On 27 March 1991, the Security Council deplored Israel's recent decision to expel four Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories and called upon it to desist from deporting Palestinians from the territories and to ensure the safe return of those deported.

It took that action through a statement read out by Council President Peter Hohenfellner (Austria) on behalf of the Council members. The statement, arrived at following consultations reads as follows:

"The members of the Security Council are gravely concerned by the continued deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and especially by the current serious situation resulting from the imposition of curfews by Israel.

"The members of the Security Council deplore the decision by the Government of Israel to expel four Palestinian civilians in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 which is applicable to the above-mentioned territories and in contravention of relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

"The members of the Security Council also called upon Israel to desist from deporting Palestinians and to ensure the safe return of those deported.

"Recalling Security Council resolution 681 (1990) and other Security Council resolutions, the members of the Security Council will keep the situation described in paragraph 1 above under review." (see press release SC/5264)

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

On 1 March 1991, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/968-S/22294), the Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People made the following statement:

"In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the continuous mass detention of Palestinian civilians, including minors, as collective punishment by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"On 22 February 1991, the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz quoted the Israeli military Prosecutor General as saying that, since December 1987, 75,000 Palestinians from the occupied territory have been tried by military courts. He also said that 3,000 Palestinian detainees are currently awaiting trial and 1,400 are currently being held in administrative detention.

"Earlier, on 29 January 1991, Amnesty International reported to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that, since December 1987, some 14,000 Palestinians, including prisoners of conscience, have been held in administrative detention without charge or trial. Over 4,000 were detained during 1990 for renewable periods of up to one year. According to this report, detainees are effectively unable to exercise the right to challenge their detention, as crucial information about the reasons for the detention is almost invariably withheld. Amnesty International concluded that this practice should not be used to detain prisoners of conscience, nor should it be used as a means to avoid the safeguards of a regular criminal justice system.

"The detention of Palestinians as a policy of collective punishment has included hundreds of minors, some of whom were under 14 years old. According to a July 1990 report of B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, some 1,700 Palestinian minors from East Jerusalem alone, had been detained prior to the date of the report. B'Tselem reported that the

detention of Palestinians, including minors, without trial, often constitutes a punishment in itself.

"B'Tselem further reported that violent treatment of detained minors had become the norm during the period of detention. The detainee is subject to rough handling, shouting and humiliation as a matter of course throughout the period of detention. Amnesty International reported that the systematic use of ill-treatment during the interrogation of detainees continues to be widespread. Methods include beatings with truncheons and rifle butts on various parts of the body; hooding with dirt sacks; sleep deprivation by prolonged shackling in uncomfortable positions; confinement in small and darkened cells often referred to as 'closets'; burning with cigarettes; squeezing of testicles; and sexual harassment.

"The detention of Palestinians by the occupying Power without trial and as a means of collective punishment is a gross violation of Israel's obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and in particular articles 33, 37, 72 and 78. It constitutes a serious infringement of the individual's rights to protection from arbitrary arrest and due process, stipulated by article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 9 (i) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes to express its condemnation of Israel's policy and practice of collective punishment, which is in violation of its obligations as occupying Power, and requests that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to all the territories occupied since 1967 and abide scrupulously by the provisions of the said Convention and the relevant international instruments.

"The Committee once again reaffirms the imperative and urgent need to ensure effective protection for the Palestinians living under occupation. The Committee appeals to you, Mr. Secretary-General, and to all concerned, to take immediately all necessary action to free the detainees, particularly the minors, and to ensure the safety and protection of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem."

In a subsequent letter dated 26 March 1991, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/985-S/22388), the Acting Chairman of the Committee stated the following:

"In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to condemn the decision by Israel, the occupying Power, to continue its deportations of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory.

"According to The New York Times of 25 March 1991, the Israeli Defence Minister has ordered the deportation of four residents of the Gaza Strip suspected of directing and taking part in violent acts against Israel. They are: Jamal Abid El Nasser Abu Jabal, 23; Muin Mohammad Husam, 31; Hashim Ahmed Ali, 31, all from Jabaliya refugee camp; and Jamal Mohammad Abu-Eljedian, 34, from Beit Lahiyah. The deportations were ordered following recent stabbing attacks against Israelis, although the four men have not been accused of involvement in any of the attacks.

"The New York Times also reported that since the beginning of the intifadah, Israel has deported at least 69 Palestinians, in violation of article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and several resolutions of the Security Council.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is gravely concerned at the increasing imposition of harsh collective punishment against the population of the occupied Palestinian territory, such as curfews, school closings, administrative detention, and other repressive measures contrary to Israel's obligations as the occupying Power. The Committee is also greatly concerned at recent statements by Israeli officials indicating an intention to increase the number and size of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and showing intransigence towards efforts to promote a just political settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

"In the light of these disturbing developments, the Committee wishes to reaffirm the imperative need for the international community, and in particular the High Contracting Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for its obligations under the Convention, and to take all necessary measures to ensure effective protection for the Palestinians

living under occupation, as well as to redouble its efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

III. UNRWA ANNOUNCES CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM AUSTRIA, SPAIN, UNITED STATES AND JAPAN

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 6 March 1991:

"Austria has contributed \$1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to help it accommodate additional Palestine refugee schoolchildren who have enrolled in Agency schools in Jordan owing to the Gulf crisis.

"The contribution will help cover the costs faced by UNRWA in accommodating an extra 2,500 Palestine refugee children who arrived in Jordan from the Gulf between August and December 1990.

"Of the amount, \$633,500 will cover the salaries of an additional 60 teachers for this year as well as books and other materials for the extra students. The remaining \$366,500 will finance the construction of 18 additional classrooms at the UNRWA schools in the Amman-Zarqa area.

"Meanwhile, Spain has announced a contribution to UNRWA of about \$207,000 for the Agency's project to build a 200-bed general hospital in Israeli-occupied Gaza.

"The UNRWA is seeking contributions to cover the \$35 million needed to build and equip a hospital in Gaza and run it for the first three years." (see PAL/1756)

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 21 March 1991:

"The United States Government on 19 March announced a special contribution of \$5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the Agency's emergency programmes for Palestine refugees in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"An official statement issued in Washington, D.C., said that President George Bush had authorized the use of this amount from the Emergency Refugee and Migration assistance

Fund 'to meet the unexpected urgent needs of refugees in the occupied territories.'

"UNRWA has been carrying out a programme of emergency food distributions in the West Bank and Gaza to alleviate hardships faced by Palestinians as a consequence of the Gulf crisis. The Agency has also sought funding for other emergency measures in the occupied territories, including expanded medical care and general protection of Palestinian human rights through a Refugee Affairs Officer programme.

"The United States is the biggest single-country donor to UNRWA's voluntarily funded education, health, relief and social programmes for some 2.4 million Palestine refugees. The United States has pledged \$62 million to UNRWA's regular programmes for 1991, and contributed \$4 million to help fund the emergency measures in the period 1989-1990."
(see PAL/1757)

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on
27 March 1991:

"Japan has announced a contribution of 1.37 billion yen (the equivalent of about \$10 million) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the Agency's emergency programme of assistance to Palestine refugees in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is the largest single contribution to UNRWA's emergency programme in 1991.

"In an official statement issued in Tokyo, the Government of Japan indicated that the donation was a humanitarian gesture aimed at alleviating hardships faced by Palestinians in the occupied territories as a consequence of the Gulf crisis.

"UNRWA made a special appeal for financial support for the Agency's emergency programme in the occupied territory at the outbreak of the Gulf war. The Agency has been carrying out food distributions to 295,000 Palestinian households in the West Bank and Gaza in response to the difficulties caused by the disruption of economic activities in the area and the loss of remittance from the Gulf."
(See PAL/1760)

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

**A. Preparatory meetings of NGOs recommend programmes
for the North American NGO Symposium, the
International NGO Meeting and the
European NGO Symposium**

A preparatory meeting for the North American NGO Symposium was held at United Nations Headquarters on 11 and 12 February 1991. Also, a preparatory meeting for the International NGO meeting and the European NGO Symposium took place at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 25 and 26 March 1991. The meetings were attended by members of the respective coordinating committees of NGOs and a delegation of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Participants discussed the format and topics to be addressed by the NGO conferences to be held under the auspices of the Committee later this year, as well as names of panelists and workshop leaders to be invited. The provisional programmes recommended by the preparatory meetings were later adopted by the full Committee and are reproduced below:

**1. EIGHTH UNITED NATIONS NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL
NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE**

This symposium will take place either in Montreal from Friday, 28 June to Sunday, 30 June 1991 or, alternatively, in New York from Wednesday, 26 June to Friday, 28 June 1991. Specific timing of elements of the programme will vary according to the venue. Should the event take place in Montreal, the proposed times of meetings are reflected below.

Provisional programme

Theme: Palestine: Protecting lives and promoting peace -
The impact of the Gulf war

Friday, 28 June

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.	Opening meeting

Statement by the Chairman of the
Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian
People

Statement by the Chairman of the North
American Regional Coordinating
Committee for NGOs on the Question of
Palestine

Statement by the representative for
Palestine

11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Plenary meeting

Panel

Palestine: protecting lives and
promoting peace - the impact of the
Gulf war

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch break

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Plenary meeting

Teach-in on Israeli/Palestinian
conflict
(including presentations on history of
conflict, Palestine Liberation
Organization, Israeli peace movement,
land and water, immigration, transfer,
international peace conference)

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Simultaneous workshops

Special protection needs of:

- 1) Educational and cultural
institutions;
- 2) Palestinian children;
- 3) Palestinians in the Middle East
region;
- 4) Palestinian women;
- 5) Prisoners.

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Repeat workshops 1-5 above

Saturday, June 29

- 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Plenary meeting
- Palestine: Responding to current developments
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Simultaneous workshops
- (Critical issues for NGO work)
- 6) Aid to Israeli occupation and imposing sanctions;
 - 7) Delegations (short-term and long-term);
 - 8) International law and strategies to encourage the United States and Canada to develop measures to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention;
 - 9) International peace conference;
 - 10) Land, settlements and immigration;
 - 11) Media strategies;
 - 12) Strategies for raising the Palestine question in the context of grassroots initiatives for a resolution of the Gulf war;
 - 13) Twinning/sister relations.
- 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lunch break
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Repeat workshops 6-13 above
- 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Hafli Salaam: Peace celebration
- What's next for Palestine/Israel after the Gulf war?

Sunday, June 30

- 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Simultaneous workshops

Organizing strategies for Canadian and United States constituencies for protection and peace:

- 14) Canadian-Arab and American-Arab communities;
- 15) Educators - elementary and secondary;
- 16) Environmental activists;
- 17) Religious communities:
 - a) Christian,
 - b) Jewish,
 - c) Muslim.
- 18) Unions;
- 19) University communities;
- 20) Women.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Business meeting (elections, reports from workshops)
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch break
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Meeting of newly elected North American Regional Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC)

**2. FIFTH UNITED NATIONS EUROPEAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM
ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE**

Austria Center, Vienna
26-27 August 1991

Provisional programme

Theme: Time for Palestine
The role of Europe in securing Palestinian rights

Monday, 26 August

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Opening meeting
- 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Plenary meeting
- Implementation of United Nations
resolutions on Palestine: European
collective responsibility and
strategies following the Gulf war
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lunch break
- 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Workshops
- I. Effective lobby work in Europe:
Review of past experience and
future initiatives;
 - II. Mobilizing public opinion in
Europe: End the Occupation Now;
 - III. Contributing to fair and factual
reporting on Palestinian issues in
the mass media.

Tuesday, 27 August

- 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Plenary meeting

International protection of the
Palestinian people: The
responsibilities of European States as
co-signatories of the Fourth Geneva
Convention

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Workshops

- IV. New initiatives for securing international protection for the Palestinian people;
- V. Economic effects of the Gulf war on Palestinians: NGO actions;
- VI. Jewish immigration and its impact on Palestinian rights: responsibilities of European States and public opinion;
- VII. Development projects on Palestine: how to cooperate with governmental and intergovernmental institutions

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch break

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Elections

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Workshop reports

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Final Declaration

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Closing meeting

3. EIGHTH UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING
ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Austria Center, Vienna
28-30 August 1991

Provisional programme

Theme: PALESTINE NOW!
The establishment of the independent Palestinian State
under the leadership of the PLO
is the key to Middle East peace

Wednesday, 28 August

morning

Opening meeting

Statement by the representative of the
Host Government

Statement by the representative of the
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Statement by the Chairman of the
Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian
People

Statement by the Chairman of the
International Coordinating Committee
for NGOs on the Question of Palestine

Statement by eminent person/s

Statement by the representative of
Palestine

afternoon

Plenary meeting

Panel 1:

United Nations protection, United
Nations resolutions, from the Gulf to
Palestine

Thursday, 29 August

morning

Plenary meeting

Panel 2:

Palestine update

afternoon

Workshops

Friday, 30 August

morning

Plenary meeting

Panel 3:

NGO Forum - A call to action

What have we accomplished? What remains to be done? How shall we proceed?

afternoon

Workshops

- I. The protection of the Palestinian people and its independent infrastructure in occupied Palestine: Focus on education;
- II. Human rights in the occupied territories: The reunification of Palestinian families;
- III. Soviet Jewish immigration and its effect on Palestinian human and national rights;
- IV. NGO methods and strategies for lobbying Governments on behalf of Palestinian national rights and strategies for mobilization for the international peace conference;
- V. Regional demilitarization and disarmament: establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction;

VI. Land, water and settlements.

Closing meeting

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B. Documentation

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

1. Palestine, a fortnightly supplement of Falestine Al-Thawra, available from: 13, Botsari Street, Nicosia, Cyprus.
2. Jerusalem, publication of Palestine Committee for NGOs. Available from: B.P. 554, Tunis Cedex 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.
3. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from Magelan, 5 rue Cardinal Mercier 75009, Paris, France.
4. Action for Palestine, bulletin published by London Friends of Palestine, 21 Collingham Road, London SW5 ONV United Kingdom.
5. The American Alliance for Palestinian Human Rights, available from 2435, Virginia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, United States of America.
6. Challenge, a bi-monthly magazine of the Israeli left, written by Jewish and Arab activists for the international community concerned with peace in the Middle East, particularly with a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Available from: P.O. Box 2760, Tel Aviv 61026, Israel.
7. Oriente Medio, publication of Amigos de Palestina, available from: Apartado 2102, 37080, Salamanca, Spain.
8. The Other Front, available from: the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.
9. AJME News, journal of Americans for Justice in the Middle East, available from: P.O. Box 113-5581, Beirut, Lebanon.
10. News from Within, independent newsletter, available from: Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.
11. The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, monthly publication available from: P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.
12. ICCP Newsletter No. 32, available from: the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, 150 route de Ferney, Case postale 2100, CH-1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland.

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