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Letter dated 8 November 1982, from the Chairman of the Committee on
the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,
addressed to the Secretary-General

As Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour to convey to you once again the Committee's deep concern on the persistence of the Israeli policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

According to The New York Times of 5 November 1982, David Levy, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Minister, announced on Wednesday, 3 November 1982, that another five settlements would be established on the West Bank.

According to the same newspaper, a spokesman for the World Zionist Organization said, on 4 November 1982, that there were 25,000 Jews living in 103 West Bank settlements. He added that Israel would push ahead with a plan to settle 400,000 Jews on the West Bank within the next five years and 1.4 million within the next 30 years.

Furthermore, as reported by The Jerusalem Post of 7 October 1982, Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, speaking at the settlement of Mero Dohan near Jenin (a northern town of the West Bank) said that "massive settlements all over the West Bank area is the best answer to the various plans that outsiders are trying to foist on Israel".

The continuation of that policy of changing the demographic character of the occupied territories in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 and in defiance of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, can only aggravate the tense and explosive situation which already exists in the occupied Palestinian territories.

On behalf of the Committee, I urge that decisive steps be taken forthwith to protect the rights of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

I should be most grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Massamba SARRE
Chairman of the Committee on the
Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People
