



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/229
S/17935
24 March 1986

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-first session
Item 35 of the preliminary list*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-first year

Letter dated 24 March 1986 from the Acting Chairman of the Committee
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People I wish to express the Committee's grave concern at the fact that the Israeli authorities have once again refused travel permits to Palestinians living in the occupied territories to attend a United Nations-sponsored meeting. The Palestinians in question, Ms. Sameeha Khalil, Family Welfare Society, West Bank, and Mr. Haidar Abd-al Shafi, Palestine Red Crescent Society, Gaza, had been invited by our Committee to participate in the preparatory meeting for the Non-Governmental Organizations International Meeting, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 6 to 7 March 1986. In inviting them, the Committee felt that their expertise and involvement in humanitarian activities on behalf of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories would have been of great benefit and inspiration to the other participants in the meeting.

You will recall that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had occasion in the past to deplore measures by the Israeli authorities against participation by Palestinians in United Nations meetings on the question of Palestine. The Committee reported to the General Assembly at its fortieth session that Ms. Sameeha Khalil and Ms. Siham Barghouty from the West Bank had been invited to attend the Non-Governmental Organizations International Meeting held at Geneva from 9 to 12 September 1985 but had been refused a travel permit by the Israeli authorities. In 1983, Mr. Mohammad Mi'ari, now a Knesset member, and Mr. Maysara Sayyid of Haifa, were arrested for having attended the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in Geneva, where they had met with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization in working sessions of the Conference.

In the opinion of the Committee, these measures are not based on security considerations but rather aim at barring international exposure of conditions in the occupied territories and at preventing a meaningful dialogue among the various forces devoted to a peaceful solution, including the Palestinian people themselves. The Committee wishes to reiterate that such discriminatory measures violate the right to freedom of movement, and can only make the search for a peaceful solution ever more difficult.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to appeal to you to do all in your power to ensure that in the future the Israeli authorities will not prevent Palestinians from participating in meetings organized by the Committee.

I would be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Oscar ORAMAS-OLIVA
Acting Chairman
Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights
Of the Palestinian People