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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL Forty-second year

Letter dated 30 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to state the following:

The Israeli occupation forces are persisting in their inhumane practices against innocent citizens and towns and villages in the south and in the western Bekaa bordering on the so-called "security zone" established by Israel in the south following its latest military invasion in 1982 and its occupation of a part of Lebanese territory, in defiance of the will of the Security Council and the international community's repeated calls for Israel's immediate and complete withdrawal from Lebanon and the implementation of the international resolutions on this matter, and in flagrant violation of the provisions of international law, the United Nations Charter and the International Bill of Human Rights.

These arbitrary practices include acts of random shooting and bombardment, resulting in the killing and wounding of many citizens and large-scale damage to their homes and property. They also include the burning and destruction of agricultural crops with phosphorus bombs and the obstruction of villagers, attempts to cultivate their land and harvest the crops. This is depriving Lebancse citizens in the south and in the western Bekaa of their basic means of livelihood.

In order to give a clearer picture, we may mention, by way of example only, the township of Kfar-Roummane in Nabatiye province, which has a population of 16,000 and whose economy is totally dependent on agriculture. Its produce comprises tobacco, citrus fruit, cereals and vegetables, sown over an area of 27,000 dunums, of which the irrigated portion is located in Sahl-Elmaidane, which has extremely fertile land watered by three natural springs. For three years, the inhabitants of Kfar-Roummane have been prevented from using their agricultural land, which is their sole source of livelihood, because of random shooting and bombardment from the Israeli military positions overlooking that area, particularly the Ali Taher, Jabal Toura and Es Souaida positions. These practices have resulted

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in the killing of 50 civilian citizens of Kfar-Roummane and the blocking of the Kfar-Roummane Sahl-Elmaidane Mazraat el Jarmaq Aaichiye road and the Kfar-Roummane Sahl-Elmaidane Aarab Salim Jbaa' Jezzine road. The result is that the citizens of Kfar-Roummane and the surrounding townships have been denied access to their land and means of livelihood and prevented from meeting and associating with their fellow citizens in the neighbouring villages and towns.

The town of Nabatiye has a population of approximately 80,000 and, in addition to being the provincial capital, constitutes the administrative, social, commercial, economic and cultural centre for all the surrounding villages. The suffering of its people testifies day after day to Israel's policy aimed at demolishing all potential for growth and prospecity, paralysing the commercial and agricultural sectors and depriving the people of the substance of their livelihood, their ambitions and their hopes.

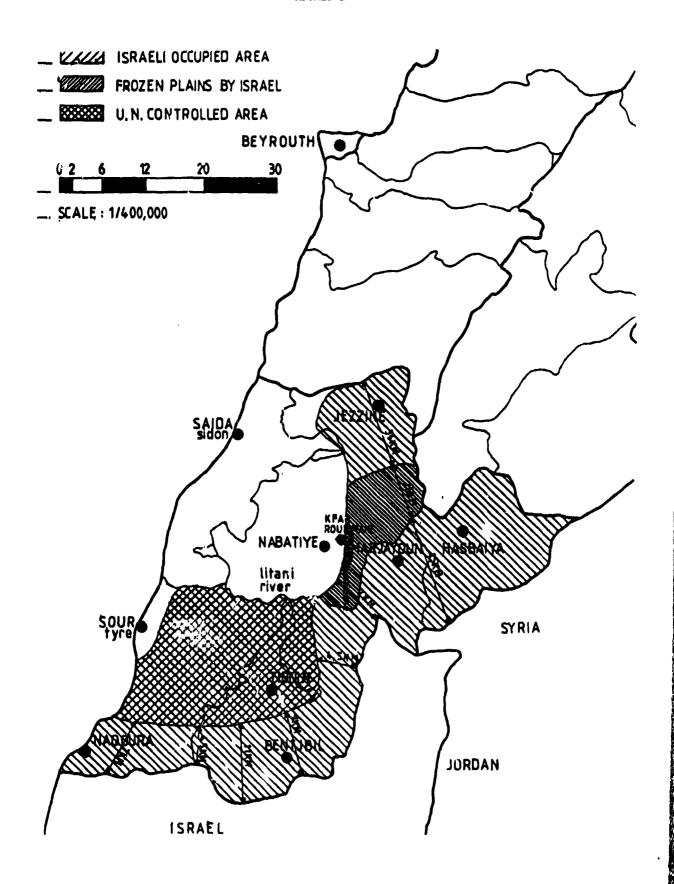
The picture of the situation in the town of Nabatiye and the township of Kfar-Roummane applies also to other towns, villages and townships in the south and in the western Lekaa, including the rollowing: kfar Milki, Kfar Hatta, Kfar Fila, Kfar Tibnit, Jbaa', Ain Qana, Ain Bousoir, Jarjoula, Aarab Salim, Houmine el Faoqua, Mimis, Mazraat Ain Tjour, Yater, Kobiskha, Beit Yahoun, Froun, El Ghandouriyeh, Nabatiye el Faouqa, Arnoun, El Qantara, Chama', Tayr Harfa, Zawtar el Charqiye, Zawtar el Gharb' Yohmor, Qilya, El Dillafe, Lucy, Maidoun, Ain el Tineh, Baraachit and El Loueizeh. The inhabitants of these villages live not only in the shadow of psychological terrorism and the threat of being killed and having their homes and property destroyed at any moment but are also deprived of their basic means of livelihood from which they support their wives, children and old people.

In placing before you a picture of the tragedy being suffered by a large number of our citizens as a result of the Israeli practices that are repeated daily against the land of the south, my Government requests you to give consideration to practical means are measures to put a halt to those practices, including the policy of deliberate starvation, and renews its call for the implementation of the international resolutions demanding the complete, comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, inasmuch as the continuation of the Israeli occupation constitutes an obstacle to a definitive political, economic and social solution to the Lebanese crisis.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Counci.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I



ANNEX JI

