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Letter dated 9 January 1991 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 inform you that the Israeli Government has resumed its policy of forcibly expelling and illegally transporting Palestinians to Lebanon across the international frontier, particularly through the so-called "security zone" which it continues to maintain inside Lebanese territory.

On 8 January 1991, the Israeli authorities deported four Palestinian civilians by military helicopter from the occupied Palestinian territories to the outskirts of the town of Marjayoun, from where they were subsequently sent to the Lebanese Army centre in the western Bekaa.

The Palestinians expelled are Sheikh Mustafha Knuah (aged 45), Imad El-Alami (aged 34), Fadel Zaabout (aged 36) and Mustafha Al-Lidani (aged 25). All come from the occupied Gaza Strip.

The Lebanese Government, which has in the past frequently and repeatedly condemned Israel's policy of expelling and deporting Palestinians, in contravention of article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the forcible deportation of civilians from their occupied territory regardless of the motive, reiterates its vigorous condemnation of and protest against Israel's repressive policy, which heightens the tension prevailing in the region as a whole and displays disgraceful contempt for the sovereignty of the Lebanese State and its territorial integrity, besides violating the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law, international conventions and the pertinent resolutions of the Security Council: 607 (1988); 608 (1988); 636 (1989); and 641 (1989).

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The Lebanese Government also stresses that the time has come for the international community, and particularly the Security Council, to put an end to these inhumane and unlawful measures and practices on the part of Israel, which express scorn for all international values and laws and defiance of Security Council resolutions. Meanwhile, every urgent measure must be taken to ensure the return of those deported to their families, in accordance with international laws and humanitarian principles.

I should be grateful if the present letter were distributed as a document of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

