

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/8117*
10 August 1967

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JORDAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Israel authorities are persistent in perpetrating their oppressive acts against the civilian population in the occupied part of Jordan. These acts range from exile to looting, dislodging, expulsion, levelling of villages and violations of the cease-fire resolutions.

The following list is by way of illustration, it is in no way exhaustive.

1. On 26 July 1967, at 1735 hours local time, the Israel forces expelled eighty-five inhabitants of the West Bank of Jordan by way of Mandasa and Om-El-Shurrat Bridges. Having crossed the above-mentioned bridges, the Israel forces opened fire at them. Six of them were seriously wounded and were later treated at Salt Governmental Hospital.

In their testimony the expellees stated that they were detained at Jericho Prison where they were subjected to various methods of intimidation and torture.

2. On 27 July 1967, fifty-seven inhabitants of the Gaza Strip sought refuge in the East Bank of Jordan after making their way via the occupied part of Jordan. In their testimony the refugees indicated that their exodus was prompted by the shortage of food and the inhuman treatment they were subjected to by the Israel authorities.

3. Looting is still ruthlessly going on. Many shops and houses in the occupied part of Jordan were either robbed or pillaged during the curfew hours. Even one of the Christians' holiest sites was not spared. The New York Times of 4 August 1967 reported that a golden halo studded with precious stones was stolen from a statue of the Virgin Mary in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Paltinum earrings, similarly studded, and a row of ornamental hearts were also removed from that statue. This theft took place during an Israel imposed curfew.

* Also issued under the symbol A/6784.

67-18696

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The Nablus Hospital is another case in point. The Israel forces looted and robbed all the medical and non-medical equipment of the civilian hospital in Nablus established explicitly for the treatment of civilian families. The construction cost of this hospital amounted to about \$1 million. The value of furniture and equipment looted amounted to \$196,000.

This project was financed out of monthly contributions from members of the Jordanian armed forces for the explicit purpose of providing medical services to their immediate families and their dependents all of whom are civilians.

4. The Israelis are extending their aggressive behaviour to the levelling of villages with dynamite and bulldozers. Only recently, and many days after the hostilities, the border villages of Beit Awwa and Beit Marsah were levelled with dynamite and bulldozers. Foreign diplomats and representatives of a Swedish assistance organization affirm the fact that these villages have been destroyed except for a few houses. Also, three villages in the Latrun area were similarly levelled leaving 5,000 to 7,000 civilian inhabitants homeless.

When UNRWA set up a tent-village next to one of the levelled villages, the dispossessed villagers would not go there. They said, "We are going to sleep in the ruins of our houses; they can put us out if they want to." This is what they are doing now.

One of the Israel arbitrary measures used to intimidate and terrorize the population of the occupied part of Jordan is the blowing up of their houses with dynamite, on the pretext that some weapons were found in them. The dynamiting of houses in both Nablus and Gaza areas offers a glaring example.

5. Moreover, the Israel violations of the Security Council cease-fire resolutions are continuing. On 1, 2, 3 and 4 August firing with machine-guns and 106mm. guns at Jordanian forces situated east of the river had compelled the Jordanian positions to return the fire. In every instance the firing lasted for a considerable period of time.

These are but examples showing that the Israel authorities are escalating their campaign of terror, intimidation and continued oppression.

The above defiances leave no room for doubt that the Israel authorities do not intend to carry out their obligations under the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. More serious steps are therefore needed to put an end to Israel acts of lawlessness.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Muhammad H. EL-FARRA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

