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CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
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**APPLICATION DE LA RÉSOLUTION 60/251 DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE
DU 15 MARS 2006, INTITULÉE «CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME»**

Note verbale datée du 6 juin 2007, adressée au Bureau du Président du Conseil des droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des institutions spécialisées en Suisse**

La Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des institutions spécialisées en Suisse présente ses compliments au Bureau du Président du Conseil des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui faire parvenir, ci-joint, une lettre du Représentant permanent de la République arabe syrienne qui exprime les préoccupations du Gouvernement syrien quant à la situation inquiétante et alarmante de la dégradation de l'état de santé de son citoyen, du Golan syrien occupé, Monsieur Sitane Nimr Al Wali – détenu dans la prison de Nafha en Israël, où il a été condamné à une peine d'emprisonnement de 27 ans pour avoir refusé la nationalité israélienne.

La Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne demande que la présente note verbale soit mise à la disposition de tous les membres du Conseil des droits de l'homme pour examen et qu'elle soit enregistrée comme document officiel de la cinquième session du Conseil.

* Nouveau tirage pour raisons techniques.

** La présente note verbale est publiée dans toutes les langues officielles. L'annexe est reproduite en annexe telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale et en anglais seulement.

Annex

Sir,

I sent you a letter annexed to note No. 63, dated 6 December 2006, from the Mission, referring to the deterioration in the health of Mr. Saytan Nimr al-Wali, a Syrian prisoner who has been held in Israeli occupation prisons. I am writing you this urgent letter in order to draw attention to the deteriorating health of Mr. Al-Wali, who has been serving a 27-year sentence, in isolation cells in Israeli occupation prisons, and is presently being held at Nafhah prison in the Negev desert, for refusing to take Israeli nationality and holding on to his Syrian citizenship.

The information provided by the prisoners and detainees committee of the Syrian Golan and by Mr. Saytan Nimr al-Wali's family confirms that there has been a grave deterioration in the health of the prisoner at the Israeli occupation prison, especially since the visit which his family paid to him on 27 May 2007. His condition is extremely worrying; the prisoner is being subjected to a slow death and to deliberate negligence on the part of Israeli prison service staff. His state of health is very critical; his body shows strange signs of swelling. He can neither walk nor speak and he is being kept alive by an artificial respirator.

The prisoner's conditions of imprisonment are the result of a systematic policy by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at the elimination of prisoners from the occupied Syrian Golan. This very difficult situation requires your immediate intervention in order to get the Israeli occupation authorities to allow a representative from the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit this prisoner, in the company of qualified doctors, to check his state of health and to secure his immediate release.

Here, I should like to mention that it was inhuman conditions of imprisonment like these that led to the death, in 2005, of Syrian prisoner Hayil Abu Zayd. A further 20 Syrian prisoners from the occupied Syrian Golan are living in the most appalling conditions of imprisonment; most have spent over 22 years in prison.

In concluding this letter, and given the prisoner's deteriorating state of health, I should like to reaffirm the need for you as President of the Human Rights Council to intervene immediately in order to save this man's life and the lives of the other prisoners. I am confident that you will use all your good offices to intervene promptly in order to save a human life. I am also confident that your efforts will produce concrete results, securing the release of this prisoner and of his fellow detainees, protecting them from inhuman conditions of imprisonment and putting an end to these violations at the earliest possible juncture. I also request that you have this letter circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council at its forthcoming session. We look forward to receiving information from you about the steps that you have taken to secure the release of Mr. Al-Wali and about the results of your efforts.

Accept, Sir, our thanks and the assurances of our highest consideration and may you long be a champion of all downtrodden, oppressed and long-suffering peoples throughout the world.

(Signed): Khalil Bitar
Chargé

d'affaires a.i.

Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba
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