



Asamblea General

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CONSEJO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS
Octavo período de sesiones
Tema 7 de la agenda

**SITUACIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS EN PALESTINA
Y OTROS TERRITORIOS ÁRABES OCUPADOS**

Nota verbal de fecha 11 de junio de 2008 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos y al Presidente del Consejo de Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de la República Árabe Siria ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra*

La Misión Permanente de la República Árabe Siria ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales con sede en Ginebra saluda atentamente a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos y al Presidente del Consejo de Derechos Humanos y, recordando la carta * anexa a la nota de la Misión Nº 417/08, de 6 de junio de 2008, sobre el estado de salud del ciudadano sirio Systan al-Wali, detenido en cárceles israelíes desde hace más de 23 años, y en atención a la gran urgencia de esta cuestión para el pueblo sirio, solicita amablemente que la citada carta se distribuya como documento del octavo período de sesiones del Consejo y se examine en relación con el tema 7 de la agenda.

* Se reproduce como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó y en inglés solamente.

Annex

I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the contents of our previous letters regarding the state of health of Syrian prisoner Bisher al-Meket. I would also like to inform you that the state of health of Syrian prisoners is deteriorating daily, due to the inhumane conditions of detention to which these persons are subjected in Israeli prisons.

In this context, I would like to point out that Syrian prisoner Saytan al-Wali, imprisoned for more than 23 years, was suffering from a tumour of an unknown nature in his right kidney. As laboratory tests were unable to determine the nature of the tumour, he had to be transferred from Nafha desert detention centre to hospital. On 12 May 2008, he underwent surgery for the removal of the kidney. This has been confirmed by doctors and the prisoner's family. His family has also confirmed that he has long been suffering from a number of diseases, but Israeli procrastination and delays led to this critical situation in which he now finds himself. It is worth recalling that Syrian prisoner Hayel Abu Zaid had similar symptoms, which resulted in his death from cancer in 2005.

We therefore hold the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for the deterioration in the health of all Syrian prisoners, in particular prisoner Saytan al-Wali, and for all the consequences which may follow. We call upon you to bring pressure to bear on Israel to comply with the applicable norms of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions.

We confirm that the state of health of prisoner Al-Wali requires extensive medical care. We again appeal to you to do your utmost to bring pressure to bear on Israel to allow delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross to intervene promptly and without delay, accompanied by specialist physicians, to assess the state of health of prisoner Al-Wali and save his life, which is in imminent danger.

I am confident that you will make every good endeavour and spare no effort to save the life of prisoner Saytan al-Wali. We appreciate the urgent efforts that you will make to defend human rights and international humanitarian law.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed): Walid al-Moallem
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Doru Romulus Costea
President of the Human Rights Council