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CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Huitième session
Point 7 de l'ordre du jour

**LA SITUATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME EN PALESTINE ET
DANS LES AUTRES TERRITOIRES ARABES OCCUPÉS**

**Note verbale datée du 13 mai 2008, adressée au Haut-Commissariat
des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et au 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**

La Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et d'autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments à la Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et au Président du Conseil des droits de l'homme et, rappelant la lettre* jointe en annexe à sa note n° 302/08, en date du 2 mai 2008, relative à l'état de santé de M. Beshir Almeket, ressortissant syrien détenu dans les prisons israéliennes depuis plus de vingt-trois ans, a l'honneur de demander que la lettre susmentionnée soit distribuée en tant que document de la huitième session.

* La lettre est reproduite telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale et en anglais seulement.

Annex

Syrian Arab Republic

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Damascus, 23 April 2008

Further to our letter dated 11 December 2007 concerning the state of health of Mr. Beshir Almeket, a Syrian citizen detained in Israeli prisons for more than 23 years, I would like to bring it to your attention that Mr. Almeket's state of health is deteriorating badly. After Mr. Almeket had a heart attack on 24 March 2008, he was transferred to Al-Afulah hospital, where the doctors confirmed that he urgently needed a surgical operation because the condition of one of Mr. Almeket's arteries is so serious as to be life-threatening.

We stress that the state of health of Mr. Almeket can no longer permit of any procrastination or delays on the part of the Israeli occupying authorities. According to the medical reports which we have received, the catheterization operation which he underwent was unsuccessful. We therefore hold the Israeli occupying authorities entirely responsible for any harm that may come to Mr. Almeket and for the possible consequences. We call upon you to exert pressure on Israel to comply with the relevant norms of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions.

In thanking you for your response to our previous letter on this matter, we again urge you to make every effort to bring pressure to bear on Israel to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to intervene with specialized doctors immediately, and without delay, to verify the state of health of Mr. Almeket and perform a surgical operation upon him immediately in order to save his life, which is at constant risk as a result of the inhumane conditions of detention in which he has been held in Israeli prisons, together with other Syrian detainees.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its willingness to provide the Syrian prisoner, Mr. Beshir Almeket, with the necessary treatment and to bear the costs in any country to which he is transferred.

We are confident that you will spare no effort to save the life of detainees suffering from the worst forms of psychological and physical torture, and we express our appreciation for the urgent efforts that you will make in defence of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Walid Al-Moualem
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Dorou Costea
President of the Human Rights Council
