



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 13 de mayo 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 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 ^{*} adjunta a la nota N° 302/08 de la Misión, de 2 de mayo de 2008, relativa al estado de salud del ciudadano sirio Beshir Almeket, que permanece preso en cárceles israelíes desde hace más de 23 años, tiene el honor de solicitar que la mencionada carta sea distribuida como documento del Consejo en su octavo período de sesiones.

^{*} Se reproduce tal como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó y en inglés únicamente.

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
