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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-eighth session
Agenda item 4

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED
ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 3 March 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Chairman of the
Commission on Human Rights

"In my letter of 25 February 1982 (document E/CN.4/1982/22), I drew the Commission's attention to the persistence of the Israeli occupying authorities in occupied Syrian territory in practising terror against the Syrian citizens of the Golan who have now been on strike for almost three weeks in protest against the Israeli decision to annex occupied Golan and to impose on its inhabitants Israel's laws, jurisdiction and administration.

In its issue of 27 February, the French newspaper Le Monde made a lengthy commentary on the situation in occupied Syrian territory under the following headline: 'Israeli army blocks all access roads to Golan'.

The section relating to Israeli repression includes the following:

'The Israeli authorities are stepping up their pressure to break the indefinite general strike started by the Druzes of the Golan on 14 February last. On Wednesday the 24th, officials of the Israeli water-supply company decided to reduce the water supply of the town of Magdal-Chams, the largest of the five Druze towns in the Golan which have a total population of 13,000 inhabitants.

During the night of Wednesday/Thursday, the army closed all roads leading to the territory of the Syrian Golan. General Amir Drori, Commander of the Northern Sector (Syrian and Lebanese frontiers), ordered Israeli forces to erect barriers on all access roads to the territory and to prohibit entry or exit. At the same time, the troops stationed in the four towns where the Druze population is concentrated were reinforced.'

This shows how critical the situation is in the occupied Golan.

This alarming situation has justifiably aroused Syrian and Arab public opinion, which sees these arbitrary Israeli measures as brutal attempts by the occupying authorities to literally stifle the indignant opposition of Syrian nationals to the annexation and persecution.

Syrian universities, the Damascus Lawyers' Union, the National Council of the Peace Movement in Syria and other organizations and associations have sent you telegrams drawing the attention of the Commission on Human Rights to these manoeuvres by the Israeli authorities in occupied Golan, who have completely isolated it from the outside world and installed barriers preventing the inhabitants from going from one village to another. Water consumption has been reduced and telephones cut off. Foreign journalists stationed in Israel have been molested by the Israeli authorities when they have tried to visit the besieged villages and subjected to inhuman treatment.

Please find attached the telegrams in question, which were sent to you by the three universities of Damascus, Homs and Latakia, by the Damascus Lawyers' Union and by the National Council of the Movement of Peace-Lovers in Syria.

I request you to circulate this letter and the attached telegrams to all the members of the Commission on Human Rights."

(Signed) Adib Daoudy
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

The Chairman of the Human Rights Commission,
Geneva,
Switzerland

The Lawyers' Union in the Syrian Arab Republic greets your Commission now meeting in Geneva.

The Union wishes to bring to your attention the brutal and barbaric acts perpetrated by the authorities of Israeli occupation in our territories in the Golan against the Syrian citizens who have rejected occupation and the decisions of the Israeli Parliament. They are also resisting all measures practised by these authorities to obliterate their Syrian Arab identity contravening international law and human rights.

The Lawyers' Union in the Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns these acts which contravene the basic principles of human rights which your Commission was founded to uphold and prevent any excesses to them. We request your Commission to intervene and take the effective positive deterrent measures to stop these barbaric acts committed by the Israeli occupiers in the Syrian Arab Golan Heights against our citizens.

In conclusion, we wish you success in all your work which aims at protecting the human being and his rights. We look forward to your decision and bold stand in the face of such violations.

Lawyer Nour Eddin Habbal
Chairman of Lawyers' Union in the
Syrian Arab Republic

Damascus, Syria

3 March 1982

Annex II

The Chairman of the Human Rights Commission,
Geneva,
Switzerland

On behalf of the staff and students of the University of Damascus, I wish to draw your attention to the brutal practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against our brave citizens in the occupied Golan Heights.

These practices against which we protest in the strongest possible terms, violate provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and defy the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and more specifically the Security Council resolution adopted on the 17th of last December and the resolution of the special emergency session of the General Assembly, adopted on 5.2.1982 and the Commission's decision adopted on 11.2.1982, all of which condemn the Israeli decision to annex the Golan Heights, denounce the Israeli inhuman practices in the Golan, and call for the abolition of the Israeli annexationist measure.

Dr. Mohammed Ziad SHWAIKI
President of Damascus University

Damascus, Syria

3 March 1982

Annex III

Sir,

The governing body, teachers and students of the University of Teshreen at Latakia, Syria, hope that the work of your Commission at its current session in Geneva will be successful. They also hope that your decisions will be implemented, particularly during this critical period in the world which is characterized by the flagrant violation of human rights by parties claiming to be attached to them. The aggressive practices of the racist Zionist entity against our Arab people in the occupied territories and the flagrant violations committed against our people in the Golan Heights clearly confirm the racist character of this entity, which is protected and given every kind of economic, diplomatic and military support by the Government of the United States. Not content with its inhuman practices, this entity has gone further by annexing occupied Golan, thus violating international law and especially the Fourth Geneva Convention.

By taking this decision, the Zionist entity flouted the Charter of the United Nations and violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and particularly the Security Council's decision of 17 December 1981 and the decision adopted at the emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly on 5 February 1982. These decisions condemn and deplore Israel's barbarous acts in occupied Syrian Arab territory and demand that the racist Zionist occupying authorities should desist from these acts and apply the principles of international law, United Nations decisions and the Geneva Conventions. Nor has the Zionist entity contented itself with taking a decision contrary to all human values, but has even contested the refusal of the Zionist nationality by our Syrian citizens who express their attachment to their Syrian Arab nationality.

Israel is subjecting them to pressures of all kinds and depriving them of all means of living to oblige them to submit to its racist practices.

We forcefully condemn all these practices, which confirm the aggressive and expansionist nature of the Zionist entity, and we also condemn the limitless support provided to this entity by the United States.

We look to you for action to put an end to these violations, which are contrary to all human principles and international law.

Dr. Abdula Al Cheik Ibrahim
Rector, University of Teshreen,
Latakia, Syria

3 March 1982

Chairman, Commission on Human Rights,
Geneva

Annex IV

The National Council of the Movement of Peace-Lovers in Syria wishes to draw your attention to the situation of the Syrian Arab inhabitants of the Golan occupied by Israel by force in 1967.

Following the decision of the Government of Israel to annex the Golan and to establish Israeli laws there, the Israeli authorities launched a vast campaign of terror against the Syrian Arab inhabitants of the Golan in order to coerce them into renouncing their Syrian nationality and adopting Israeli nationality.

To this end, the Israeli authorities are using all possible methods of pressure and duress, such as arresting village notables and transferring them to prisons in Israel, denying freedom of expression to the inhabitants of the Golan and at the same time surrounding villages by armed forces, thus isolating them from each other, cutting off services and supplies and refusing to allow their inhabitants out in order to attend to their needs.

These iniquitous acts infringe the most elementary human rights and run counter to the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other conventions relating to the treatment of civilians in occupied territories. They are also a reckless retort to the resolution of 5 February 1982 by which the United Nations General Assembly rejected the decision taken by the Government and Parliament of Israel to annex the Golan and demanded that Israel should rescind its decision. These acts are also contrary to the resolution concerning the Golan which was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on 12 February 1982.

The oppression against the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan is still continuing and is even being intensified by the day in order to subdue them or force them to emigrate.

In making our appeal, we call upon the Commission on Human Rights to condemn these acts and alert world public opinion to them and to intercede with the Israeli authorities so that they desist from these violations of human rights in occupied Golan.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

National Council of the Movement of
Peace-Lovers in Syria

President: Mr. Jaber Bajbouj

Damascus, 2 March 1982

Commission on Human Rights
Geneva

Annex V

The Chairman of Human Rights Commission,

We denounce the brutal measures, exercised by the Israeli occupation authorities against our entire citizens in the occupied Golan Heights which breach the Fourth Geneva Convention, challenge the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights particularly, the Security Council resolution, the United Nations special emergency session on 5 February and the decision of Human Rights Commission, issued on 12 February 1982.

All these decisions condemn the annexation of the Golan and denounce the brutal Israeli actions in the Syrian Arab occupied land as well as they demand to the occupying authorities to relinquish such actions and, to apply international law, United Nations resolutions and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

I am so sure that your Commission, being as we know, the defender of human rights all over the world, will stand and support our citizens in the occupied Golan Heights in their struggle and will keep on condemning Israel's criminal measures committed against them.

With my great appreciation to your Commission.

Dr. Abdul Majid Cheikh HUSSEIN
President of Al-Baath University
Homs - Syria

Homs - Syria, 2 March 1982