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Agenda item 4

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

Note verbale dated 29 January 1988 from the Permanent Mission
of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to
the Centre for Human Rights, transmitting three communications
from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation
Organization to the United Nations Office at Geneva

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva and has the honour to transmit to it three documents from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) with the request that they should be circulated as official documents of the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Annex I

LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AT GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

The Israeli occupation authorities, after having used all violent means against the Palestinian population of the Palestinian occupied territories during the last two months, opening fire on unarmed civilians, killing children, women and men, injuring more than 1,000, arresting thousands, deporting four people, and attacking worshippers in holy mosques during prayers, have now adopted a new savage policy against the Palestinian people.

Indeed, implementing their new policy of "might, power and beatings", according to the declaration of Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli occupation forces have started a "broken bones" campaign of terror. This policy consists of partly replacing the use of live bullets by catching people in the streets and breaking their bones (arms, legs and skull) savagely beating them with their truncheons, "to prevent them from throwing stones". So far, more than 200 Palestinians have had their arms, legs and skulls broken by the Israeli occupation soldiers in this way. As we said, this is partly replacing their policy of opening fire on Palestinian civilians, since one woman was shot dead and two young boys were seriously injured on Sunday, 24 January. Fifty-five-year-old Fatima Izhak Rashid Salman was shot dead in Beit-Safafa village, Yahya Salem Omar (aged 18) and Mohammad Odeh Bailout (aged 17) were shot in the head and very seriously injured, in Bani Naim. Moreover, two pregnant women suffered miscarriages after having been beaten up by Israeli soldiers in Jabalia camp: Khitam Shamlan (seven months pregnant) and Souad Al-Halabi (six months pregnant).

Another new policy used by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is the policy of starving out the refugee camps. Not only do the Israeli occupation forces impose long curfews on the refugee camps, but they also prevent the delivery and distribution of food supplies during the 45-minute lifting of curfews. The Israeli occupation soldiers also catch women who manage to take some food into the camps, confiscate their bags and baskets and destroy the supplies.

According to an UNRWA release dated 21 January, there is a shortage of food supplies in many camps of the Gaza Strip, and more particularly a shortage of milk-powder for children in the Jabalia camp (Revolution camp) where 56,000 people live.

This is a new policy, aiming at physically eliminating the Palestinian people, used by the Israeli occupation authorities in a new violation of the Geneva Conventions, of the principles of international humanitarian law, of United Nations resolutions and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights.

We hereby wish to request you to consider the present memorandum as an official document of the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed)

Nabil RAMLAWI
Director
Permanent Observer of the Palestine
Liberation Organization to the
United Nations Office at Geneva

Annex II

LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AT GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Israeli occupation authorities, while continuing their aggressive policy against the population of the Palestinian occupied territories, killing Palestinian civilians, wounding a very large number of people, and imposing bad living conditions in the refugee camps, are now perpetrating new crimes against Palestinian women, in particular pregnant women, with the clear aim of preventing them from giving birth.

Indeed, the Israeli occupaton forces have been attacking pregnant Palestinian women and beating them savagely, until many of them miscarry. Moreover, heavy use of tear-gas, thrown inside the houses by the Israeli soldiers, has also led to miscarriages.

So far, 25 cases have been reported of women who either miscarried or gave birth to stillborn babies, as a result of savage beatings or the use of tear-gas inside their homes.

Following are the names and ages of these women:

1. Amal Anunar (aged 19)
2. Mariam Ashour (aged 38)
3. Yousra Hasanein (aged 20)
4. Fayza Al-Aziz (aged 29)
5. Souad Al-Habil (aged 35)
6. Salwa Ahmad Al-Kafarnah (aged 23)
7. Sabah Ahmad Rabiah (aged 19)
8. Samira Bader Abu Rabiah (aged 21)
9. Latifa Mohammad Al-Sharif (aged 32)
10. Fatima Abu-El-Aish (aged 25)
11. Issaf Adel Koheil (aged 38)
12. Jamila Jum'a Arouf (aged 28)
13. Khitam Shamlan (aged 35)
14. Khitam Mahmoud Al-Dalou (aged 17)
15. Souad Al-Halabi (aged 20)

16. Afifa Radwan (aged 26)
17. Samira Soreif (aged 28)
18. Inshirah Al-Tourabi (aged 25)
19. Dunia Al-Zaanin (aged 30)
20. Sabirah Abu Ali (aged 23)
21. Piryal Al-Ghafri (aged 30)
22. Aisha Abu Samaan (aged 35)
23. Sabah Al-Omari (aged 30)
24. Tahaneh Abed-Rabbo (aged 22)
25. Al-Maza Mohammad Dugmoush (aged 24).

Since these practices by the Israeli occupation forces are continuous and systematic, they take the aspect of a genocide against the Palestinian people, under paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

We hereby wish to request you to consider the present memorandum as an official document of the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed)

Nabil RAMLAWI

Director

Permanent Observer of the Palestine
Liberation Organization to the
United Nations Office at Geneva

Annex III

LETTER DATED 2 FEBRUARY 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AT GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

On Monday morning, 1 February 1988, the Israeli occupation troops entered the Dheisheh refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, stormed a large number of houses and kidnapped 30 Palestinian children. The 30 children were taken by the Israeli soldiers to an unknown destination.

This tragic event constitutes one more act of genocide, under paragraph (e) of article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

We hereby request you to consider the present letter as an official document of the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed)

Nabil RAMLAWI
Director
Permanent Observer of the Palestine
Liberation Organization to the
United Nations Office at Geneva