



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/203
S/16496
19 April 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-ninth session
Items 68, 69, 124, 125 and 130 of the
preliminary list*
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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 19 April 1984 from the Permanent Representative
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

In my letter of 28 December 1983 (A/39/60-S/16242, of 29 December 1983 and Corr.1), I had informed you of the strong protest of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the Government of Pakistan over the armed aggression which was carried out against Afghanistan in the Torkham area. In the course of that aggression, the armed bandits had forcefully kidnapped 37 employees of the civil institutions of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and surrendered them to the Pakistani militia forces on the other side of Torkham. The kidnapped

* A/39/50.

persons have been transferred to the central prison of Peshawar and are currently exposed to psychological and physical tortures. The Pakistani authorities, using various means, try to force them to stay in that country.

On 17 April 1984, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a protest note, the unofficial translation of which follows, was handed over to him:

"In the raid of 27 Qaus 1362 (18 December 1983) on civil establishments of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in Torkham by the bandits and foreign mercenaries with the support of the frontier contingents of Pakistan and under the protection of Pakistani light and heavy weapons fire, the armed bandits, after setting fire to the custom-house, plundering the public properties and assets and inflicting much loss of life and huge material damages, forcefully kidnapped 37 employees of civil institutions to the other side of Torkham who were then imprisoned by the Pakistani authorities.

"According to the letters received from the said prisoners by official authorities of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the Pakistani militia, after taking them to the other side of Torkham and keeping them under temporary custody in the Pakistani Post, transferred them to Landi Kotal by special vehicles used for transport of prisoners. There the Pakistani authorities, using means of inducement or threat, tried to force them into accepting asylum in Pakistan. But the prisoners resisted and stated that: 'You always talk of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and now you force us to stay in Pakistan. We only desire to return to our beloved country'.

"Since the Pakistani authorities failed in their sad attempts, they transferred the prisoners to the central jail in Peshawar, forced them into various inhuman acts, subjected them to the severest psychological and physical torture and once again tried, through brainwashing, to keep them in Pakistan and prevent them from returning to their country and families.

"The concerned Afghan authorities have summoned several times the Chargé d'Affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and demanded the immediate release of the prisoners. But the Pakistani authorities have not made any decisions in this regard and have so far denied facilities for any consular access to the Afghan Consulate in Peshawar in order to meet with the prisoners and learn of their conditions and problems.

"The patriotic Afghan prisoners have until now endured courageously and with strong faith the various injustices and hard conditions imposed on them by the Pakistani authorities and have not yielded to their threats, intimidations and false and hostile propaganda. They have stated that they will resist to their death and have threatened to go on a hunger strike if the present situation continues.

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The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan strongly condemns these actions of the Pakistani Government which are contrary to international norms and principles and are in contradiction with humanitarian spirits. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan most seriously protests to the Government of Pakistan in this connection and once again demands that the responsible Pakistani authorities immediately release the prisoners and safely return them to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan."

I request Your Excellency to arrange for the distribution of this letter as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 68, 69, 124, 125 and 130 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Farid ZARIF
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
