



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/700
10 October 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-first session
Agenda item 71

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Letter dated 10 **October** 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of **October** 1986, I am pleased to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you from Mr. **Zehdi Labib Terzi**, Permanent Observer of the **Palestine Liberation Organization** to the United Nations (see annex), and to request you to circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 71.

(Signed-) **Saoud Bin Salim AL-ANSI**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 9 October 1986 from the Permanent Observer of
the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by **Yasser Arafat**, Chairman of the Executive **Committee** of the **Palestine Liberation Organization**, to bring the following to your immediate attention.

Palestinian **Issa Shamassneh**, 30 years old, **was** found dead near the Zionist **settlement of Ramat Rahel** on 15 August 1986, two days prior to his planned wedding day. **Shamassneh's** whereabouts had been a source of great concern to **his** family **after he failed** to return home from a visit to his fiancée on 11 August. On 16 August, the **Shamassneh family was** summoned to **Israeli** military headquarters at Bethlehem, where **they were** informed that **Issa's** body had **been** found under a tree at Sur **Baher**, near Bethlehem. Family **members** viewed the body on 17 August and reported **that the** body was complete, except for **some missing** lower **teeth**, and still clothed. The deceased's clothes were soaked in blood and his shirt open. Family **members** noted a hole in **his** undershirt near his heart **which** may have been a bullet wound. The occupying Power, **Israel**, has refused to release **the** coroner's report that was issued in this case ; instead, **they claim that** Issa **Shamassneh** "blew himself up while preparing an explosive device".

This is the fifth time in the last 1 1/2 years that the Israeli occupation **authorities have** attributed mysterious Palestinian deaths to **such a cause**. In each **case**, there has not been any **clear** evidence that would lend credibility to this **official explanation**. We would here recall our letter of 23 December 1985, informing **that Hassan** Abdul Halim, a journalist for Al-Fajr newspaper, left his home in Kattaneh on an assignment and did not return. He was found mutilated and headless, 79 days after **he** disappeared. The fact **that** his glasses were found **intact next** to his body and head, and that his head has **been** neatly severed from his body, do not indicate death by explosion. Halim and **Shamassneh** were both from the **same** village, Kattaneh.

Action by the Israeli occupation **authorities** surrounding the case of **Issa Shamassneh** lends an air of suspicion to the entire matter. It took the military authorities over a **week** to issue **an official statement on the** case. Initially, the occupation authorities tried to place **blame on the fiancée's** family. All attempts by the Palestinian press in the Israeli occupied territories to publish the story were prohibited by Israeli censors. They went as far **as** to place a curfew on the village of Kattaneh, to prevent journalists and mourners from reaching the family.

As we have already noted, the Israeli occupation authorities have refused to release the autopsy report to the family, a practice usually occurring within three days on an inquiry. No official cause of death was entered on the burial certificate. All facts point to another summary execution **by the** notorious Shin Bet.

We would recall **that the Shin Ret came** under public scrutiny **after two Palestinian prisoners were beaten to** death by their Shin Bet interrogators in 1984. Recently, **Shimon Peres** indirectly confirmed **that these** killings were **not** isolated **incidents**; an Israeli Foreign Ministry official, **quoted** in the **Los Angeles Times** (20 July 1986) , stated **"Who cares?"** in response to a question **about the two** prisoners slain by **the Shin Bet** in 1984.

Chairman Arafat calls upon your **good** offices to take whatever action you deem appropriate to put an end to the summary executions of Palestinians **by the** occupying Power, Israel,

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer