

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General and the United Nations organs and specialized agencies concerned to take action, as appropriate, on the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference;

10. *Further invites* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference by Member States, the United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations concerned;

11. *Decides* to keep under review to the extent possible the resolutions of the Conference in connexion with related agenda items.

*1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.*

#### **2443 (XXIII). Respect for and implementation of human rights in occupied territories**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Bearing in mind* the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,<sup>80</sup>

*Mindful* of the principle embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights regarding the right of everyone to return to his own country, and recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967, General Assembly resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 and 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, Commission on Human Rights resolution 6 (XXIV) of 27 February 1968<sup>81</sup> and Economic and Social Council resolution 1336 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, in which those United Nations organs called upon the Government of Israel, *inter alia*, to facilitate the return of those inhabitants who have fled the area of military operations since the outbreak of hostilities,

*Recalling* the telegram dispatched by the Commission on Human Rights on 8 March 1968, calling upon the Government of Israel to desist forthwith from acts of destroying homes of the Arab civilian population in areas occupied by Israel,<sup>82</sup>

*Recalling also* Security Council resolution 259 (1968) of 27 September 1968, in which the Council expressed its concern for the safety, welfare and security of the inhabitants of the Arab territories under military occupation by Israel, and deplored the delay in the implementation of Council resolution 237 (1967),

*Noting* resolution I on respect for and implementation of human rights in occupied territories, adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights on 7 May 1968,<sup>83</sup> in which the Conference, *inter alia*:

(a) Expressed its grave concern at the violation of human rights in Arab territories occupied by Israel,

(b) Drew the attention of the Government of Israel to the grave consequences resulting from the disregard of fundamental freedoms and human rights in occupied territories,

<sup>80</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), No. 973.

<sup>81</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/4475)*, chapter XVIII.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 406.

<sup>83</sup> See *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 5.

(c) Called upon the Government of Israel to desist forthwith from acts of destroying homes of the Arab civilian population inhabiting areas occupied by Israel and to respect and implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949<sup>84</sup> in occupied territories,

(d) Affirmed the inalienable rights of all inhabitants who have left their homes as a result of the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East to return home, resume their normal life, recover their property and homes, and rejoin their families according to the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

1. *Decides* to establish a Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, composed of three Member States;

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to appoint the members of the Special Committee;

3. *Requests* the Government of Israel to receive the Special Committee, co-operate with it and facilitate its work;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its task.

*1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.*

#### **2444 (XXIII). Respect for human rights in armed conflicts**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the necessity of applying basic humanitarian principles in all armed conflicts,

*Taking note* of resolution XXIII on human rights in armed conflicts, adopted on 12 May 1968 by the International Conference on Human Rights,<sup>85</sup>

*Affirming* that the provisions of that resolution need to be implemented effectively as soon as possible,

1. *Affirms* resolution XXVIII of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross held at Vienna in 1965, which laid down, *inter alia*, the following principles for observance by all governmental and other authorities responsible for action in armed conflicts:

(a) That the right of the parties to a conflict to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited;

(b) That it is prohibited to launch attacks against the civilian populations as such;

(c) That distinction must be made at all times between persons taking part in the hostilities and members of the civilian population to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations, to study:

(a) Steps which could be taken to secure the better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules in all armed conflicts;

<sup>84</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), Nos. 970-973.

<sup>85</sup> See *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 18.

(b) The need for additional humanitarian international conventions or for other appropriate legal instruments to ensure the better protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts and the prohibition and limitation of the use of certain methods and means of warfare;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all other necessary steps to give effect to the provisions of the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on the steps he has taken;

4. *Further requests* Member States to extend all possible assistance to the Secretary-General in the preparation of the study requested in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Calls upon* all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907,<sup>36</sup> the Geneva Protocol of 1925<sup>37</sup> and the Geneva Conventions of 1949.<sup>38</sup>

*1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.*

**2445 (XXIII). Teaching in schools of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the structure and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, with particular reference to human rights**

*The General Assembly,*

*Considering* that the International Year for Human Rights should be the occasion for new efforts to improve the standard of knowledge about the United Nations and, in particular, about its efforts in the field of human rights,

*Recalling* its resolutions 137 (II) of 17 November 1947 and 1511 (XV) of 12 December 1960 concerning the teaching in schools of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the structure and activities of the Organization and the specialized agencies,

*Considering* that such teaching is not yet sufficiently widespread, in particular in primary and secondary schools, despite the efforts of Member States and of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

*Convinced* that in order to achieve the desired results such teaching must start at an early stage of education,

*Conscious* of the fact that young people cannot receive training which meets the requirements of a world increasingly characterized by the interdependence of peoples if educators do not themselves receive special instruction in international organization,

1. *Requests* States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency to take steps, as appropriate and according to the scholastic system of each State, to introduce or encourage:

(a) The regular study of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and of the principles proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other declarations on human rights, in the training of teaching staff for primary and secondary schools;

<sup>36</sup> Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations 1899-1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1918).

<sup>37</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

<sup>38</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), Nos. 970-973.

(b) Progressive instruction on the subject in question in the curricula of primary and secondary schools, inviting teachers to seize the opportunities, provided by teaching, of drawing the attention of their pupils to the increasing role of the United Nations system in peaceful co-operation among nations and in joint efforts to promote social justice and economic and social progress in the world;

2. *Further requests* States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency to draw the attention of the competent authorities in private scholastic institutions to the present resolution and to invite them to make the necessary efforts for the achievement of the aims envisaged in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue and to encourage the study of appropriate ways and means of promoting the achievement of the aims envisaged in the present resolution;

4. *Further requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the other specialized agencies concerned and the United Nations Development Programme to provide assistance to Member States, particularly those which are developing countries, with a view to enabling them to achieve the objectives envisaged in paragraph 1 above.

*1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.*

**2446 (XXIII). Measures to achieve the rapid and total elimination of all forms of racial discrimination in general and of the policy of apartheid in particular**

*The General Assembly,*

*Deeply concerned* that during the International Year for Human Rights large-scale violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms continue to take place,

*Gravely concerned* about the continuing eviction and detention, imprisonment and murder of nationalists and freedom fighters in southern Africa and in colonial Territories,

*Noting* resolutions III, IV and VIII of 11 May 1968 of the International Conference on Human Rights<sup>39</sup> pledging support for measures to achieve the rapid and total elimination of colonialism and all forms of racial discrimination in general and of *apartheid* in particular and for the treatment as prisoners of war of captured freedom fighters opposed to the policies of *apartheid* and colonialism,

1. *Condemns* the Governments of South Africa and Portugal for their persistent defiant stand towards the United Nations and world opinion in respect of their policies of *apartheid* and colonialism, respectively;

2. *Further condemns* the policy of racial discrimination of the illegal minority régime in Southern Rhodesia and deplores the refusal of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, to take effective measures to suppress this illegal régime and to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms to the people of Zimbabwe;

3. *Censures* the Governments of South Africa and Portugal for assisting and collaborating with the illegal minority régime in Southern Rhodesia;

<sup>39</sup> See *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), pp. 6, 7 and 9.