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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Soixante-deuxième session
Point 8 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

**QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME DANS
LES TERRITOIRES ARABES OCCUPÉS, Y COMPRIS LA PALESTINE**

**Note verbale datée du 6 janvier 2006, adressée au secrétariat de la Commission des
droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève**

La Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au secrétariat de la Commission des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui faire parvenir ci-joint une copie de la lettre adressée au Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme par le Représentant permanent de la République arabe syrienne concernant la division en deux parties du village syrien occupé d'Al-Ghajar par le déplacement de ses habitants et la construction d'un mur les séparant de leurs terres, en violation des règles du droit international et du droit international humanitaire, notamment de la quatrième Convention de Genève.

La Mission permanente de la République arabe syrienne vous serait obligée de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et de son annexe** comme document de la soixante-deuxième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme au titre du point 8 de l'ordre du jour.

* Retirage pour raisons techniques.

** Reproduite telle quelle en annexe, uniquement dans la langue dans laquelle elle a été présentée et en anglais.

Annex

I am writing to you with regard to a number of complaints that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has received from the inhabitants of the Syrian village of Ghajar in the Golan, which has been occupied by Israel since 1967. The complaints indicate that the Israeli occupation army has for several weeks been carrying out operations with a view to partitioning the village by erecting a border fence that will cut the village in two. Under this Israeli plan, Israel intends to transfer the population living to the north of the so-called Blue Line delineated by the United Nations in 2000 to the southern part of the village, in preparation for the construction of a security wall that will definitively separate the southern part of the occupied Syrian village from the northern part, the northern part being absorbed into Lebanon and the southern part being left under Israeli occupation.

In the context of this partition plan, the Israeli occupation forces informed the people of Ghajar last week that the northern part of the village must be evacuated by the end of March 2006, meaning that 90 per cent of the inhabitants must move to the south of the village. Otherwise, the occupation forces will seal off the village and prevent the villagers from moving beyond the wall encircling it.

At the same time as these operations were being carried out, and in pursuance of the partition plan, the prosecutor service, at a session held by the Israeli Supreme Court in Jerusalem to look into this issue, presented the following requests:

1. Permission to stop cars from entering Ghajar, including those belonging to residents, and to allow inhabitants to enter on foot only into the part of the village located in Lebanon;
2. Permission to order the population to move to the southern part of the village and not to leave them with any other option.

At the aforementioned Supreme Court session, a representative of the Israeli prosecution service explained that his Government was not prepared to endanger its soldiers because of a few people living in the northern part of the village.

Israel's partition of the village and removal of the civilian population from their land will result in the expropriation of 900 dunums of land which belongs to the villagers and is situated outside the wall which Israel intends to build and, consequently, to the seizure of this land and the alteration of the demographic situation in the village. Israel's forcible transfer of the civilian population to the southern part of the village is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention which prohibits the displacement of any civilian population living under occupation. According to the Statute of the International Criminal Court, such acts are regarded as a crime against humanity. Indeed, article 7 of the Statute refers to "Deportation or forcible transfer of population" as a crime against humanity over which the Court has jurisdiction. The village of Ghajar is a Syrian village which has been occupied by Israel since 1967 and the villagers are Syrian Arab nationals living under Israeli occupation. They have title deeds to show that the village and surrounding land is part of the Syrian province of Quneitrah. This partition operation is therefore designed to alter the Syrian character of the village.

The Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law, requests that you bear your responsibilities by bringing pressure to bear on Israel in order to compel it to put a stop to this crime and prevent the partition of the village of Ghajar, which would be a breach of international law and a violation of the human rights of Syrian citizens worn down by the Israeli occupation. We also call on you to put an end to the humanitarian, social and economic predicament of the Syrian residents of the village, because it deprives them of their homes, their land and their livelihood, severs their family ties and separates villagers from their families.

The Syrian Arab Republic, which reserves the right to take whatever legal measures are necessary in this situation, requests that this letter be circulated under agenda item 8 of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and looks forward to the tangible results of your efforts to bring a halt to these violations at the earliest possible juncture.
