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QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO
ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR:

(c) QUESTION OF ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

Letter dated 7 February 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the
Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

With reference to document E/CN.4/1986/18, chapter II, section A.11, of 24 January 1986, I have the honour to transmit to you the reply of the Lebanese Government through the Attorney-General of the Court of Cassation on enforced or involuntary disappearances:

1. The Lebanese judicial authorities affirm that they are not holding any person illegally or without a warrant issued by a competent judicial authority;
2. Rights of defence are guaranteed to all untried prisoners and in particular to those among them who have been arrested by the legal judicial authorities;
3. The organs of executive power of the Lebanese Government, such as the police, the Gendarmerie and the Sûreté Générale, are subject to the authority and supervision of the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation in respect of all matters relating to judicial acts;
4. The facts reported in the above-mentioned document concerning the abduction and disappearance of persons in certain regions of Lebanon

involve armed Lebanese and foreign organizations which, because of the bloody events which have been occurring in Lebanon for over 10 years, are temporarily beyond the control of the State authorities;

5. The judicial authorities are conducting the necessary inquiries and investigations in order to ascertain the fate of missing persons, whether or not they are mentioned in the document transmitted, and, in accordance with the legislation in force, will never give up their search for the perpetrators of such acts.

I should be grateful, Sir, if you would distribute this letter as an official document of the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Salim NAFFAH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative