

4. *Requests* Member States to encourage the giving of the maximum publicity to the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts within their territories;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of South Africa to report to the Secretary-General on the measures taken or envisaged in accordance with paragraph 3 above;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To take steps to draw the widest possible public attention to the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.*

#### 2441 (XXIII). International Year for Human Rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965, 2217 (XXI) of 19 December 1966 and 2339 (XXII) of 18 December 1967,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the measures and activities undertaken by the Member States, United Nations organs, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and national and international organizations concerned in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights,<sup>27</sup>

*Believing* that, despite the violations of human rights that have occurred and continue to occur during the International Year for Human Rights, many of these measures and activities have contributed to the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations organs, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and national and international organizations concerned for their efforts and undertakings in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, in particular in giving effect to the measures set out in the annexes to General Assembly resolutions 2081 (XX) and 2217 A (XXI);

2. *Further expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations organs, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and national and international organizations concerned that have kept the Secretary-General informed of their efforts and undertakings in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights and invites them to continue to supply as much relevant information as possible to the Secretary-General to enable him to prepare a final report on the International Year for Human Rights to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 2339 (XXII);

3. *Invites* Member States to consider prolonging, after the end of the International Year for Human Rights and as appropriate, such activities undertaken during the International Year as would continue to be

helpful in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Considers* that the newsletter on the International Year for Human Rights prepared by the Secretary-General has been of value and requests the Secretary-General to continue to issue from time to time an appropriate bulletin containing information on the activities of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in the field of human rights and a bibliography of United Nations documents and publications on that subject.

*1748th plenary meeting,  
19 December 1968.*

#### 2442 (XXIII). International Conference on Human Rights

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965 on the International Year for Human Rights,

*Noting with appreciation* the Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights<sup>28</sup> held at Teheran from 22 April to 13 May 1968,

*Convinced* that the Conference made an important constructive contribution to the cause of human rights and that its results should be translated into effective action by States, the competent organs of the United Nations and its family of organizations, and other organizations concerned,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government and people of Iran for acting as hosts to the International Conference on Human Rights, for the excellent arrangements and for the hospitality extended to all participants;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the Executive Secretary of the Conference and the members of the Secretariat for effectively preparing and servicing the Conference;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the work of the Conference, which constitutes a solid foundation for further action and initiatives by the United Nations and other interested international bodies, as well as by the States and national organizations concerned;

4. *Confirms* the views of the Conference on the urgency of eliminating denials and violations of human rights;

5. *Endorses* the Proclamation of Teheran<sup>29</sup> as an important and timely reaffirmation of the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other international instruments in the field of human rights;

6. *Calls upon* all States and organizations concerned to take further action with a view to the full realization of human rights in the light of the recommendations of the Conference;

7. *Urges* all States and organizations concerned to encourage and assist all media of mass communication in giving widespread publicity to the Proclamation of Teheran and the work of the Conference, as appropriate, and in lending support to the achievements, activities and concerns of the United Nations in the field of human rights;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to transmit to the competent organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies those resolutions or parts of resolutions of the Conference which interest them;

<sup>27</sup> A/7195 and Add.1-9.

<sup>28</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

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>30</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>31</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>32</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>33</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>30</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), No. 973.

<sup>31</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/4475)*, chapter XVIII.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 406.

<sup>33</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>34</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>35</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>34</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), Nos. 970-973.

<sup>35</sup> See *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 18.