

THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE for Palestinian Human Rights

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January 3, 1991

The Honorable Richard Schifter
Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights
and Humanitarian Affairs
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Sir:

Quoted by the Washington Post on December 10, 1990 was Aryeh Neier, the executive director of the Human Rights Watch. Mr. Neier said "Washington's new near-voicelessness has all but stilled what arguably has been the globe's most powerful governmental advocate for human rights for most of the past 16 years." He went on to conclude that "...we cannot count on our government to promote human rights. It has other interests. But as citizens of the United States, we cannot simply set these interests aside. Our support for the cause of global human rights has never been more important than in the 1990s."

We believe our government is more responsible than Mr. Neier suggests. We therefore look forward with confidence to your department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1990, trusting that the section on Israel and the occupied territories will focus solely on the practices of the state of Israel, and present facts fully and objectively.

During the past several years many organizations of unquestionable integrity have accumulated much information about the human rights practices of the Israeli government. The United Nations will soon be an additional source as a result of Security Council Resolution 681. Other organizations, such as ours, rely on those organizations as well as our Department of State, for detailed, verifiable, and unbiased information. We trust the public will find consistency between the many sources of such information.

The American Alliance for Palestinian Human Rights, which functions primarily as an information clearinghouse, is non-ethnic and non-political. We believe ensuring the human rights of all people

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