Excerpts from the

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
adopted unanimously by the United Nations in 1948

Article 1
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 5
No one will be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9
No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 12
No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

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Rationale for CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY - PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS (CIPHR)

The year 1989 saw the beginning of dramatic movements throughout the world toward democracy. Fundamental to those actions are the desires of all people for the attainment of certain internationally recognized human rights. The United States is one of the countries which, in 1948, unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, excerpts of which are above.

Our national policy of encouraging countries toward democracy includes providing financial assistance. However, to ensure that our support advances the achievement of humanitarian aims, the Congress requires an annual report on the status of internationally recognized human rights in those countries.

In its Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1989, the State Department again criticized the treatment of Palestinian people in the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Israel. Amnesty International, Physicians for Human Rights, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and many other organizations have condemned Israel's violations of Palestinian human rights. Such violations have also been reported by the media, and have been witnessed by hundreds of individuals who have visited the Occupied Territories. In the US religious community, many denominations have called for US action regarding Palestinian human rights. In the Jewish ethic community, in both the US and Israel, many organizations and individuals have spoken against the oppressive policies of the current Israeli government toward the Palestinian people.

Our elected representatives, and we the public, need full and accurate knowledge of the situation. Congressional hearings are the only way for the whole truth to be revealed and evaluated.