

U.N. body asks human rights probe in Kuwait

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights of the U.N. Economic and Social Council, meeting in Geneva on Aug. 20, passed a resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Kuwait by a wide majority. This resolution, together with the longer one published in *EIR*'s last issue condemning Israel for its treatment of Palestinians, reflect the growing resistance against the Anglo-American "new world order" under which the war on Iraq was run in defense of the feudal regime of Kuwait.

The resolution submitted to the 43rd session of the Sub-Commission under Agenda item 6, "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms; including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid. . . ." reads in part:

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/170 of 18

December 1990 concerning the situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait,

"Also recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/67 of 6 March 1991, in which it strongly condemned the Iraqi authorities for their grave human rights violations in occupied Kuwait and in which it decided to appoint a special rapporteur to examine the human rights violations committed in occupied Kuwait, and Economic and Social Council decision 1991/251 of 31 May 1991 approving that decision,

"Concerned at reliable and specific reports of arbitrary arrests, torture, unfair trials, enforced or involuntary disappearances, deaths in custody, and possible extrajudicial executions in Kuwait, as well as deportations and other abuses against non-Kuwaitis since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces,

"Expresses its hope that the special rapporteur appointed pursuant to Commission resolution 1991/67 of 6 March 1991 will give due attention to alleged gross violations of human rights currently occurring in Kuwait and will inform the Commission of developments affecting the situation of human rights in Kuwait since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces."

week. I get furious, because I have to tell my patient I cannot operate on him, even though I know I could save his life. On the other hand, especially in neurosurgical cases, you must investigate very carefully. Prior to operation you need certain exams of your patient, be it X-ray, CT scan, NMR, or similar things. All this cannot be done now. So if you do the operation without knowing the certain place of a foreign body, for example, you may harm your patient more with the operation than without it. Neither way is tolerable to me as a physician, but how can things be changed with the embargo still going on? Really, I do not know how to help the people."

Here you see two patients, who could not be operated on in Baghdad because no investigations could be done:

1) Amar was injured during the war by a bullet in his neck. The projectile was not removed. Now it has been removed here. As the CT scan shows the spinal cord was injured, the NMR will tell whether an operation can help to diminish his right-sided hemiparesis.

2) Rasul, a 20-month-old boy, had epidural hematoma after a fall. He developed increasing cerebral palsy with impairment of drinking. He cannot speak or walk. Here the hematoma was removed in the neurosurgical hospital and he is improving slowly.

A 'post-Gulf war generation'

In addition to all this and as a result of this, the people are living in continuous psychological stress because of the

continuing of the embargo and the continuous threat of another possible attack. Therefore, the parents live troubled, not only because of the lack of food, medicine, work, and money. This has a bad effect on the children.

Even if the embargo were lifted, were lifted now, the people and especially the children would suffer from this for a long time after the war, not to say all their lives. It is right, as some called it, we will have to speak of the post-Gulf war generation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am not a politician. I spoke to you as a doctor and a human being, but I dare say that all laws say that for people who kill by decision and in full conscience, the punishment should be stronger. Don't you agree with me, that the continuing of the embargo means the death or killing of children every day, who are innocent? I do not know on what laws, religion, or other principles this is based. Here in the West we speak a lot of human rights. But what remains of human rights, if you prevent people from living a normal life, from finding food and medicine? I believe no one of us has the right to do this. Logic, laws, principles, morals, resolutions of the United Nations, principles of Unicef, the World Health Organization, they all must oppose what the Security Council is doing against the children of Iraq. I know I cannot change the decisions, but it is my duty, especially as a doctor, to say this. If every one of us raises his voice against the situation, we could do something to stop the continuous killing of children.