

15. In addition to the above-mentioned new arrest cases, the Secretary-General drew the particular attention of the General Assembly to the abduction, on 17 February 1988, of Lt.-Col. Higgins, an officer of the United States of America serving as Chief of the military observers of UNTSO assigned to assist the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the performance of its tasks. The details regarding his abduction are to be found in the reports of the Secretary-General on UNIFIL dated 14 March 1988 (S/19617) and 25 July 1988 (S/20053). Despite continuing efforts by the Secretary-General to obtain the release of Lt.-Col. Higgins, he remains in captivity.
16. The Secretary-General noted a lack of progress in respect of some previously reported cases. In Ethiopia, Mr. S. Teklu, a staff member of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who was listed in the previous report (A/C.5/42/14), remained in detention. On 14 January 1988, the High Court decided to release Mr. Teklu on bail. However, the case was then taken to the Supreme Court by the Prosecutor, who appealed against the decision of the High Court. On 3 March 1988, the Supreme Court overruled that decision and decided that Mr. Teklu should be kept in custody pending investigation. Mrs. T. Jawabri, an FAO staff member of Syrian nationality assigned as a cleaner (G-1) to the Office of the FAO Representation in Damascus, is reported to be still in detention. The facts of this case were originally set out in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (A/C.5/38/17, attachment I, Sect. A). There has been no further information regarding six of the seven UNRWA staff members listed in the 1987 report (A/C.5/42/14) who were detained by militias or unknown elements in Lebanon, nor of five of the seven UNRWA staff members detained in Lebanon by the Syrian armed forces.
17. The Secretary-General also reported that Mr. Dumitru Mazilu, a former member of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, who had been entrusted by the Sub-Commission, pursuant to its resolution 1985/12, with the preparation of a report on the question of human rights and youth, had not been permitted by the Romanian authorities to travel to Geneva in order to present his report to the Sub-Commission at its fortieth session. Although no longer a member of the Sub-Commission, Mr. Mazilu had a valid assignment from the Sub-Commission and is, therefore, to be considered as having, in that capacity, the status of an expert on mission for the United Nations within the meaning of article VI of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
18. The report of the Secretary-General contained information submitted by FAO, which reported on the cases of its three staff members. Mr. Sunder Thapa, a national of Nepal, an FAO staff member at the G-2 level working as a driver in that country, had been arrested on 6 August 1987 following a car accident while on official duty. Mr. Thapa was detained until 9 September 1987 when he was released after posting bail of 6,000 rupees. He was requested to report to court on 11 October 1987. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs advised that, since Mr. Thapa was a Nepalese national, he was not fully covered by the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and by the agreement between the Government and FAO and he was therefore subject to Nepalese law. On 2 October 1987, the Director-General of FAO wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting his personal intervention to ensure that the summons was withdrawn and that no further criminal or civil action would be taken. The Ministry did not agree and the staff member was summoned to court on 12 January 1988.