Outrage in Israel: The UN is an Anti-Israel Circus

March 25, 2016

Israel Hayom

<http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_article.php?id=32647>

Israel on Thursday assailed the United Nations Human Rights Council for adopting a measure that calls for the establishment of a database of businesses "involved in activities" in Judea and Samaria.

Israel's U.N. ambassador, Danny Danon, called the database a "blacklist" and said the UNHRC was behaving "obsessively" against Israel.

The Geneva-based council, a 47-member state forum established 10 years ago which Israel and its major U.S. ally accuse of bias against the Jewish state, adopted the motion with 32 votes in favor, none against and 15, mostly European nations, abstaining.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement calling the body an "anti-Israel circus," adding the council "attacks the only democracy in the Middle East and ignores the gross violations of Iran, Syria and North Korea."

The council asked for the list of enterprises to be updated annually and to be appraised of the "human rights and international law violations involved in the production of settlement goods."

Netanyahu said it was absurd to condemn Israel rather than deal with attacks by Palestinians against Israel and by Islamic State in Europe. "Israel calls on responsible governments not to honor the decisions of the Council that discriminate against Israel," Netanyahu said.

Danon said the council's decision was reminiscent of "a dark period in Europe when Jewish businesses were singled out. Whoever supported today's decision, should be ashamed."

The council also named Canadian Stanley Michael Lynk as its new investigator on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories following the resignation in January of special rapporteur Makarim Wibisono, citing Israel's failure to cooperate with him.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that "the results of the vote in the 'Human Rights Council' represent further proof of this body's sick obsessiveness, which dedicates itself mostly to Israel. The Council has again proven that it is cynical and hypocritical, disconnected from reality and irresponsible."

MK Michael Oren (Kulanu), the chairman of the Knesset's Subcommittee for Foreign Policy, called on the United States on Thursday to cease taking part in the Council's activities.

"In 2009 the U.S. renewed its membership in the UNHRC supposedly in order to defend the state of Israel. In light of this resolution I call on the U.S. to sever all ties with the Council," Oren said.

The U.S. government, meanwhile, also decried the resolution.

U.S. Ambassador Keith Harper denounced the "especially disturbing" resolution that "only serves to reinforce the council's one-sided actions against Israel" and said it exceeded the council's authority.

Yesh Atid Chairman MK Yair Lapid added: "In Geneva they attack those who are murdered instead of the murderers. This is the Terrorist Rights Council."

Eviatar Manor, Israel's envoy to the U.N. in Geneva, said, "This Council needs psychological treatment."