



Mission permanente d'Israël  
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies  
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל  
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות  
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

*Check Against Delivery*

Statement by Ambassador Aharon Leshno-Yaar  
Permanent Representative of Israel

10th Special Session  
of the Human Rights Council  
Geneva, 17 March 2009

*General Debate, Item 4*

Mr. President.

In our statement during the General Segment of the 10<sup>th</sup> General Session, we made clear that hate speech and anti-Semitism is intolerable, inside and outside of the Council. Despite this, Iran clearly used, and continues to use, this forum to promote such toxic hatred for its own political agenda. Such politicization of human rights is at the very core of the deficiencies of this Council.

Mr. President,

As espoused upon by General Assembly resolution 63/191 in February of this year, the human rights of the people of Iran are systematically and brutally violated. Sadly, the Iranian people are subjected to most draconic of forms of punishment, including flogging, amputations, and stoning as a method of execution. Further, fundamental rights and freedoms afforded to all human beings are cast aside in favor of the harassment and intimidation of political opponents and human rights defenders, and the violent repression and sentencing of women exercising their peaceful right to assembly. Apostasy is punished with a mandatory sentence of death.

Mr. President,

Let me remind this Council, Iran is one of the greatest violators of human rights in the world and exporters of terrorism throughout the Middle East. Iran finances, trains, equips, and provides tactical support to terrorist organizations including Hamas and Hizbollah – terrorist organizations that repeatedly, and openly, reject the very principles of a two state solution between Israel and the Palestinians, and the very principles as endorsed by the United Nations.

Mr. President,

We must reject Iran's narrow political vision that promotes anti-Semitism in its most vile form. To allow this Council to be overrun and used as a propagandist forum for the incitement of hatred against Israel is to discredit everything this Council stands for.

Thank you.