Twitter thread comparing United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Israel versus Ukraine

March 4, 2022

By Orde Kittrie

Twitter

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Thread compares today's UNHRC Russia-Ukraine resolution w/ UNHRC Israel-Gaza resolution adopted last May. UNHRC handled RU unprovoked & barbaric attack on Ukr less strongly than Isr's self-defensive & measured response to 4000 rockets from Gaza. UNHRC left tools unused vs RU. 1/

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The resolutions are pretty similar. Both principally establish a commission of inquiry (COI) to investigate violations of human rights and the law of armed conflict. Russia-Ukraine resolution weaker in that it does not include the following elements in Israel-Gaza resolution: 2/

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The UNHRC Israel-Gaza commission of inquiry is explicitly "ongoing," meaning it is to last in perpetuity, whereas the Russia-Ukraine commission of inquiry is created only "for an initial duration of one year". 3/

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The UNHRC Israel-Gaza commission of inquiry mandate explicitly includes violations "in Israel" whereas Russia-Ukraine COI mandate apparently limited to violations "in Ukraine" (despite massive human rights violations in Russia in recent days using the war as a pretext). 4/

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UNHRC Israel-Gaza COI mandate, but not the Russia-Ukraine COI mandate, includes that COI "make recommendations on measures to be taken by third States to ensure" that those third states "do not aid or assist in the commission" of violations [this is a kind of sanctions hook] 5/

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UNHRC Israel-Gaza resolution but not the Russia-Ukraine resolution "urges all States to refrain from transferring arms when they assess. . . a clear risk that such arms might be used to commit or facilitate serious violations" of human rights or law of armed conflict 6/

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UNHRC Israel-Gaza resolution but not the Russia-Ukraine resolution "Calls upon all States, international agencies and other donors to urgently mobilize support for" the "occupied" population & urges "occupying power" to "ensure the unimpeded delivery of that humanitarian" aid 7/