UN report targets 35 US states over laws banning anti-Israel bias

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By [**Benjamin Weinthal**](https://www.foxnews.com/person/w/benjamin-weinthal)

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The United Nations Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Thursday issued a new report that attacked rights of [U.S. States](https://www.foxnews.com/category/politics/state-and-local)to pass legislation banning discrimination against Israel via boycotts and whitewashed the antisemitism of Palestinian political organizations and instead devoted its work to attacking the Jewish state, said Israel’s U.N. Ambassador, Gilad Erdan.

‘Yet again, the biased COI has released another sham report about Israel. This illegitimate committee composed of three antisemites is incapable of writing an impartial report on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The proof is their inability to include any references to Palestinian antisemitism in their latest attack on the Jewish state despite the Palestinian Authority which continually incites Jew-hatred and Hamas which seeks the destruction of Israel,’ Erdan told Fox News Digital.

He concluded that ‘Anyone who heeds this report needs to pull the wool from their eyes and seek the truth.’

In what critics see as a [United Nations](https://www.foxnews.com/category/world/united-nations) body interfering in domestic U.S. politics, the COI signaled out states that bar anti-Israel boycott measures. In section titled ‘Israeli authorities and other supporting actors: Delegitimization of civil society,’ the report delves into the policies of U.S. states that have passed laws to stop antisemitic discrimination against the Jewish state. According to the report, 35 states in the United States have adopted anti-boycott legislation.’

Some of the most populous states in the U.S., including Florida, New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Texas, have laws that counter the [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS)](https://www.foxnews.com/us/anti-semitism-bds-movement-report) campaign targeting Israel. The states outlaw private companies, which engage in such activity, from receiving public state contracts or business. The German and Austrian parliaments passed resolutions declaring BDS an antisemitic campaign.

Anne Bayefsky, president of Human Rights Voices and director of the Touro Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, told Fox News that ‘The report is also a direct attack by the United Nations on U.S. anti-BDS or ‘anti-boycott legislation,’ prevalent across this country and across party affiliation. BDS is aimed at Israel’s political and economic ruin, but the U.N. inquisition claims it's just ‘legitimate protest.’ The vast majority of Americans recognize the subterfuge and BDS as unacceptable antisemitism at odds with American fundamental freedoms.’

A Fox News Digital examination of the report, totaling 78 pages, showed that the COI defended Al-Haq, a Palestinian NGO that has been classified as a terrorist entity by Jerusalem because it has links to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The United States and Europe classified the PFLP as a terrorist organization.

The COI claimed that its ‘report examined attacks, restrictions and harassment of civil society actors in Israel, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem. It found that the majority of violations are being committed by Israeli authorities as part of the Israeli Government’s goal of ensuring and enshrining its permanent occupation at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people.’ The formal name for the UN sponsored group is the ‘Commission on Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.’

Members of the COI have been plagued by allegations of stoking antisemitism over the years.

In 2022, Miloon Kothari, a member of the IOC, was widely [denounced for stoking antisemitism](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/deref-gmx.net/mail/client/E3Dfe1dM018/dereferrer/?redirectUrl=https*3A*2F*2Fwww.foxnews.com*2Fcategory*2Ftopic*2Fanti-semitism__;JSUlJSUl!!PxibshUo2Yr_Ta5B!yNjZwdrXW-jGYkgRrzXPdycyg6f_PGqn3H1LZ4TI2V9vcEIqrZRPzcc9Cs6S22-Xuc63zQYZWHLkb5MALA%24) after he told an obscure anti-Israel blog, ‘We are very disheartened by the social media that is controlled largely by − whether it’s the Jewish Lobby or it’s the specific NGOs.’

‘A lot of money is being thrown into trying to discredit us,’ Kothari declared.

Bayefsky said, ‘At bottom, the peddlers of antisemitism are objecting to being exposed as peddlers of antisemitism – as peddlers of antisemitism have done through the ages. What we are witnessing in real time are three inquisitors chosen by the UN – none of whom is Jewish or a victim of antisemitism – announcing from their UN perch that they know better about what counts as antisemitism than Jewish victims of antisemitism.’

During the 2022 row over Kothari’s alleged antisemitism, the COI chair, South African Navi Pillay, vehemently rejected the antisemitism accusation leveled against her and other COI members.

‘We are not antisemitic!’ Pillay stressed at the time, adding. ‘I am 81 years old, and this is the first time I have been accused of antisemitism. . . .  In my own country, that will not be received well.’

The United States and Britain said Kothari made antisemitic remarks by questioning Israel’s right to be a UN member and alluding to a ‘Jewish lobby.’

The United Nations Human Rights Council created the COI, led by a three-member team of human rights experts, in 2021, following an 11-day war [between Israel and Hamas](https://www.foxnews.com/world/israel-officials-approve-ceasefire-with-hamas)in Gaza.

The Los Angeles-based human rights organization Simon Wiesenthal Center sent a letter at the time to U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield urging the Biden administration to take action against the Commission of Inquiry.

The Wiesenthal Center termed Kothari’s comments antisemitic and urged the ambassador to ‘publicly denounce Kothari’s libelous statements, false accusations, and anti-Jewish remarks against America’s ally Israel and the Jewish people.’

The commission is the first to have an ‘ongoing’ mandate from the UN rights body. Critics say its annual scrutinizing of Israel testifies to an anti-Israel bias in the 47-member-state council and other U.N. bodies.

When asked about the COI report, Stephane Dujarric the spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, told Fox News Digital that, ‘The Commission of Inquiry was established by the member states who sit on the Human Rights Council. The Secretary-General has had no involvement in its work, its staffing or its creation.’

Dujarric continued that ‘His views on the need for Israelis and Palestinians to find a political solution to the current conflict so the peoples can live side-by-side in peace and security have been clear and consistent.’