



Organización No Gubernamental con estatuto consultivo ante el ECOSOC y  
representación permanente ante la ONU de Nueva York y Ginebra

**General Assembly  
Human Rights Council  
31<sup>st</sup> session**

**Item 7 - Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

**General debate**

Mr. President,

The American Association of Jurists has learned of the resignation of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. We take note that he is not the only holder of this mandate to resign. We are deeply concerned about the attacks by different actors, linked to the Israeli Government, not only against independent experts uncovering violations of human rights and crimes committed by the State of Israel, but also against the candidates for the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories.

This is not only detrimental to the independence of the mandate holders but seems to be a global campaign by the State of Israel and its allies to manipulate and discredit the Human Rights Council. The boycott of the debate related to the human rights violations and crimes committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is just the ultimate tool used by the State of Israel.

In this context, the American Association of Jurists encourages you, Mr. President, not to be intimidated by those attempts of destabilization when appointing the next Special Rapporteur.

The State of Israel, portrayed as the only democracy of the Middle East and supported financially, politically and militarily by Western democracies, is ruled for the last 70 years in a state of emergency regime, which is *per se* contrary to the very fundamental rules of international law. This state of emergency is used to repress any structured voice of the civil society opposed to a colonial regime of apartheid.

What has the State of Israel done to implement the 2012 CERD's recommendations? Nothing, apartheid laws and practices continue to be implemented with impunity. For these reasons, the American Association of Jurists supports calls for Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions.

I thank you for your attention.

**21<sup>st</sup> March 2016**