



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

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Itzhak Levanon
Permanent Representative

4th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

In Response to Report A/HRC/4/17 and A/HRC/4/116

22 March 2007

Mr. President:

The report presented today regarding the special rapporteur's December 2006 visit to our region is once again representative of the mandate under which he operates. It's utterly one-sided, highly selective, and unreservedly biased. Large segments of this report have been imported in whole from his previous reports, including many of his inaccuracies, begging the question why the special rapporteur needs to visit the region on a regular basis if his observations are pre-determined.

Clearly, the report would have been considerably more substantial and definitely more balanced if the special rapporteur took the time to investigate the context in its entirety, including the Palestinians' human rights violations against both Israel and each other, such as the abduction of Gilad Shalit, which is in flagrant violation of the basic principle of international law. Regrettably, though, he feels unable to do so—with the pretext that this is “outside his mandate.” But while previous rapporteurs have resigned due to the blatantly anomalous nature of their mandate, this rapporteur prefers to turn a blind eye.

He fails to mention any positive developments, such as Israel's release of \$100 million to the Palestinian Authority on December 23, 2006, an event which fell well within his reporting time frame. Nor does he take note of the 81,000 Palestinians who received special permits to travel to Israel in 2006 for medical treatment in Israeli hospitals. In reference to Israel's security barrier, he also presumes to determine that it cannot "conceivably be justified on security grounds," while declining to take note of the undisputed fact that there has been a virtual 100% decrease in suicide bombings since its construction. Perhaps saving Israeli citizen lives does not qualify as a conceivable justification in the special rapporteur's eyes, but if I may, Mr. President, I beg to differ on this point.

Mr. President,

The obsessive accusations in the report, as formulated under a one-sided mandate, do nothing to solve the acute problems in our region. The resort to inflammatory and inciteful language does nothing to contribute to the process of constructive dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians. As we approach the closing stage of this institution-building year of the new Council, I have two wishes to formulate for the future, which lie directly at the heart of the Council's credibility and legitimacy. The first is that this mandate will be objectively and fairly reviewed, along with the other special procedure

mandates, in order to accurately reflect facts on the ground, striving for balance and taking into consideration all human rights violations and all human rights violators.

This process of review is crucial if the Council is to be taken seriously, and should not be waylaid by delegations who seek to pre-judge the outcome of the intergovernmental working groups, hijack the Council, and derail it from reviewing their own troubling human rights records.

My secondary wish is that whoever is appointed to replace the special rapporteur when his duties end this summer will make the utmost efforts to use the post to promote constructive dialogue, maintaining a semblance of balance, a sense of fairness, and awareness of reality.

Mr. President,

Resolution S-1/1 was created by vote. The special rapporteur did not travel to our region in fulfillment of this resolution, and yet he has written a report about it, based on his previous trips to Israel which we have facilitated for him. One must note that according to the special rapporteur, the objective of Resolution S-1/1 has effectively been implemented. In Paragraph 9 of the report just presented, the special rapporteur states that he has already (quote)

“compile[d] a report on the situation in Gaza, following the start of ‘Operation Summer Rains,’ and other issues of concern to the Human Rights Council in its special session of July 2006. This report...was incorporated into the [report] considered by the Human Rights Council on 26 September 2006.” (end quote). Thus, the special rapporteur himself suggests that he has already reported on this topic, and that the Council has already considered it. Surely, Mr. President, the Human Rights Council has more pressing matters to attend to than repeatedly tabling a politicized and selective resolution which has already been effectively realized.

Thank You.