The UN’s Blood Libel

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In “Alice in Wonderland,” the Queen of Hearts famously declared: “Sentence first! Verdict afterwards.” She would have felt right at home at the United Nations.

A supposedly independent commission has produced exactly the report sought by the UN Human Rights Council when the group ordered an investigation of war crimes during the [2014 war between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza.](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/report-finds-evidence-war-crimes-2014-gaza-war-article-1.2266509)

Although Israel resorted to force only after Palestinians indiscriminately hurled rockets into the Jewish state and after Hamas kidnapped and murdered three Israeli teens, the UN body declared in issuing marching orders for a probe: “The Council strongly condemns the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to end its prolonged occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory . . . and condemns in the strongest terms the widespread, systematic and gross violations of international human rights and fundamental freedoms arising from the Israeli military operations carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.”

The Council’s commissioner returned Monday with a 200-page document that concludes, in effect, that Israel has no right to self-defense.

While the commission devotes some space to Hamas atrocities, including murders of alleged “collaborators” and attacks directed at Israeli civilians, the panel’s goal was transparent: to set up the International Criminal Court to assault Israel.

And so, where Israel is involved, every benefit of the doubt is replaced by a presumption of guilt. For using explosives in combat, against enemies who systematically fight among and store weapons amidst civilians in one of the world’s most densely populated areas, the report says that “while not illegal as such, the use of such weapons in densely populated areas poses a high risk to the civilian population.”

It dismisses “roof knocking” — firing a missile without a warhead at a target to give civilians time to flee. Yet when an attack wasn’t preceded by a roof knock, that, too, is disapprovingly noted.

The report was delayed by months after the commission’s first head, William Schabas, stepped down after it emerged that he’d been paid to write a legal opinion for the Palestine Liberation Organization in 2012.

He was replaced by Mary McGowan Davis, one of the authors of a 2009 UN report that investigated Israel’s conduct in and early Gaza conflict and reached similarly inflammatory conclusions.

She hasn’t changed one bit, and neither has the UN. No wonder Hamas cheered the report.