This submission in itself should not be understood as an endorsement of the "Commission of Inquiry", including its mandate.

I am addressing the fourth topic concerning recommendations on accountability measures with a view to avoiding and ending impunity and ensuring legal accountability, including criminal and command responsibility.

The first law of human rights is the right to life.  So accountability for preserving life surely must be a major concern of the Human Rights Commission.  Preserving life of innocents, civilians, women, children and the elderly is this submission's pointing out that accountability for targeting civilians to kill them must be considered flagrantly antithetical to the basic tenet of human rights, and therefore, accountability must be demanded.  Blowing up buses filled with civilians, exploding bombs to kill the most civilians at a holiday dinner and targeting civilians at pizza parlors are a few of the hundreds of incidents to kill as many civilians as possible, depriving them of their basic human right of life.  These are the actions of the Palestinians and Hamas, its ruling and elected entity, and they must be held accountable and the impunity they have received must be ended.  The Reuters News Agency is the source, among numerous others.  Not to be overlooked is the powerful decision to place arms centers in schools, hospitals and mosques to increase the number of civilians caught in the line of fire for propaganda purposes. This according to the Washington Post and many others.  Accountability for such wanton disregard and contempt for the right of life must be demanded by a fair and just arbiter.

On the other hand, let us look at the treatment of civilians by the Israelis and the IDF, forced to respond to aggression, who take extraordinary measures to avoid killing civilians using countless amounts of financial resources, time and labor, by dropping millions of leaflets, radio broadcasting, sending texts, and making tens of thousands of phone calls!  These done to warn civilians to move to safety.  From the New York Times, the Washington Post and others.

Colonel Richard Kemp, the non-Jewish Commander of British Forces in Afghanistan who was also present throughout the conflict in Gaza in 2014, declared,  "The IDF does more to safeguard the rights of civilians in a combat zone than any other army in the history of warfare!"

Yes, accountability needs to be made for this quintessential respect for the human right of life by recognition of this extraordinary emulative behavior.  The IDF exemplifies what is meant by command responsibility.

There is another item of accountability that is quite dangerous.  In May, 2021, Hamas and the Palestinian people lobbed 4000 missiles into residential areas of Israel.  Of course, so as not

to be vanquished, Israel had to act in self-defense.  This fact has been completely turned upside down and the massive Palestinian propaganda machine has twisted this to declare the self-defensive party to be the aggressor.  Truth has been turned into lie and lie into truth.  When truth can be so turned upside down and the lie made to sound like the truth, truth suffers mightily, and society itself cannot live and thrive where truth has become a casualty.  There needs to be accountability for this earth-shattering inversion of the truth, which, unfortunately, has been engineered to influence worldwide opinion.

I am Lois Weiner, a citizen of the United States.