
UN Human Rights Council
38th Session, Item 2 – June 19, 2018

General Debate on High Commissioner's Oral Update

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,
Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

I thank the High Commissioner for his update. He was indeed correct in his update to discern the high level of politicization that hampers the Council's work. His reasoning to its logical conclusion, which is that OHCHR has a role to play in protecting those States who fall victim to this type of politicization, as is the case with Israel.

[This ought to be an indispensable aspect of the impartiality, which is the cornerstone of the work of the High Commissioner and his Office.]

Mr. Vice President,

Only a month ago, we were all sitting in this very room, for yet another special session singling out Israel. The 28th special session of the Human Rights Council did not occur because events on the ground warranted it. That session took place simply because the Palestinians and their supporters enjoy an automatic majority allowing them to push through any initiative directed against Israel. How absurd it was to witness the representatives of the Palestinian Authority, the same PA which refuses the transfer of funds and assistance to Gaza, sitting here straight-faced and protecting Hamas's despicable tactic of using their own civilians as human shields for conducting terror activities.

We know that when it comes to Israel the Council is not interested in the facts. The truth of the matter is that we do not see the Palestinians in Gaza as our enemies, and we welcome all efforts to improve their conditions. However, the Palestinian civilians in Gaza are the victims of the terrorist regime of Hamas.

And the fact is that Israeli civilians are constantly being threatened by Palestinian terror emanating from Gaza. But no special session was convened on May 29th, when a barrage of more than a hundred missiles and mortars was fired indiscriminately against Israeli civilians. Having adopted the Palestinians' distorted narrative, the Council once again remained alarmingly silent when it came to the human rights of Israeli civilians.

I thank you Mr. Vice President.