



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 27th Session – ITEM 4 – September 2014**

General Debate

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel remains deeply concerned about the deplorable human rights situation around the world. The Middle East region is in the midst of turmoil and conflicts are multiplying rapidly, with tragic consequences.

Lebanon's stability has been taken hostage by the crisis in Syria, which has only gotten worse. Terrorist groups, branches of the same poisonous tree, same ideology with minor nuances, like ISIS, Hamas, al-Qaeda, al-Nusra, Boko Haram and Hezbollah, supported by some governments in this room, allow the continuum of this endless bloodshed, only to worsen the situation.

In his campaign for office, President Rouhani pledged to respect the rights of Iran's ethnic and religious minorities; yet last week we learned with dismay about the three United Nations experts renewing an appeal to the Government of Iran to stop the destruction of a Bahá'í cemetery. The current surge of execution of people accused of petty crimes and on the basis of 'confessions' extracted through torture has become shamefully common in Saudi Arabia. The grave, horrific human rights violations being committed in Iraq raises alarming concern about the security of its civilian population. We read with sorrow the joint report prepared by the UN on Libya, which gives a frightening overview of abuses including indiscriminate shelling and attacks on civilian objects, abduction of civilians, torture and unlawful killings. Unfortunately, conflict-related abuses, legally sanctioned discrimination against women, judicial executions of child offenders, and non-accountability persists in Yemen.

With political upheaval still shaping the landscape of these countries, it is a mistake to presume that their governments have managed to provide the civilian population with any level of peace, security or 'spring'. The demand for dignity and respect for the human rights of these populations merits our full support. We call on this Council, and the international community, to address the misery, suffering and despair this 'Arab Winter' has brought to so many.

Thank you, Mr. President.