



# **Statement on behalf of the State of Israel**

**UN Human Rights Council  
HRC 28<sup>th</sup> Session – ITEM 2 – March 2015**

## **General Debate**

Thank you, Mr. President.

In July of last year, the Human Rights Council held its 21<sup>st</sup> special session. Israel's right to defend itself was questioned; terror attacks were officially validated; terrorism was glorified; and the human rights of Israelis were forgotten.

The special session's resolution made no mention of Hamas, its terror tunnels, or the human rights violations it committed. It appeared as though terrorizing Israelis wasn't worthy of condemnation. Apparently, the Council was unable to remember then (or ever) that Israelis, too, are humans and have rights.

Despite Israel having effectively handled its own investigations responsibly, mooted the need for any United Nations inquiry, this Council went as far as to establish a commission of inquiry under a biased, one-sided mandate.

It is no accident that a Council notorious for applying double-standards when it comes to Israel embraced Mr. Schabas, and his prejudiced agenda, to be the head of that commission. Indeed, a few weeks ago, Mr. Schabas found his position untenable and resigned. He acknowledged a blatant conflict of interest, and hoped that by removing himself, he would dispel any fog of bias from the conclusions of the report he had been preparing. The political bias of Mr. Schabas most certainly left his commission struggling to justify its validity because the integrity of the entire process was called into question.

His departure, however, will not salvage the credibility of a commission that was politicized from its outset, and will certainly not validate the report itself. The so-called collected evidence is undoubtedly tainted, and as a result, the final product should be irrevocably and inevitably discredited.

Mr. High Commissioner,

We are well aware that the Human Rights Council is polluted by an evident obsession with the State of Israel. Mandated to be unbiased, transparent and non-politicized, its 7 special sessions, more than 55 resolutions, a Special Rapporteur with an infinite mandate, and an agenda item, all targeting Israel, clearly prove otherwise.

What we did not know, is that your Office, as well, had an undisputable fixation with the State of Israel. In this session alone, your Office has prepared 8 reports that concern Israel, all of which are similar in content, and sometimes even identical.

We have taken note of the concerns regarding budgetary issues affecting your Office, and the fact that, year after year, it does not even receive sufficient regular-budget funding to pursue its mandated activities. We therefore do not understand why you, and your Office, would deem necessary to prepare reports that virtually duplicate your work in content and spectrum.

In order to put your finances to better use, we recommend you, Mr. High Commissioner, to stop duplicating efforts in redundant reports. We encourage the OHCHR to avoid the unnecessary waste of its limited budget, and focus instead on grave human rights situations and abuses taking place in other parts of the world, that are begging for its help and urgent attention.