



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

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**UN Human Rights Council  
HRC 28<sup>th</sup> Session – ITEM 3 – March 2015**

**ID with SRSG on Violence against Children and  
SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict**

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

I would like to thank both Special Representatives for their presentations. In my statement I will refer to the report by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

The State of Israel strongly believes that the global community should ensure that children are not recruited and used as combatants in armed conflicts. We therefore support the important ideas of the "Children, Not Soldiers" campaign. Children should not take part in armed conflict, neither as combatants nor as human shields.

In the Middle East, terrorist organizations - whether it's ISIL, Hezbollah or Hamas - regularly target children in their attacks. They use and abuse children and minors to advance their murderous goals. They work to instill a sense of hatred by means of indoctrination and brain-washing of children starting in pre-school.

Mr. Vice President,

Since the Special Representative chose not to mention it, let me say a few words on Hamas.

In June 2014, Hamas terrorists kidnapped and murdered three Israeli teenagers – Eyal, Gilad and Naftalie – as they made their way home from school. This was just one of many attacks targeting Israeli children. Over the summer, over 3,800 rockets landed on Israeli kindergartens, playgrounds and homes. Today over one million Israeli children live with the threat of Hamas missiles.

Hamas launched dozens of rockets from children's playgrounds and schools; it has also used UNRWA schools to hide rockets.

Hamas has also made its educational priorities clear. Every single day Hamas is polluting young Palestinian minds with hatred and violence. Over 100,000 children graduated from Hamas' paramilitary camps which encourage teenagers to become suicide bombers.

In Palestinian official TV programs for children, incitement against Israel continues, glorifying martyrdom and encouraging violence. Pictures of little children holding guns and wearing explosive belts are presented frequently in the Palestinian media. It is time for the Palestinian leadership to teach its children the meaning of tolerance, coexistence and mutual understanding.

Thank you.