



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council HRC 29th Session – ITEM 1

June 2015

Mr. President,

Hans Christian Andersen wrote famously that the King is naked. So let me assume the role of the little boy in the story and tell you- this Council has lost its bearing .

I have no interest in debating the content of the Resolution. It is an anti-Israeli manifesto. I will state, however, that the Resolution distorts the intention of the authors of the Report by completely ignoring alleged violations of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law committed by HAMAS and other Palestinian armed groups. Hamas continues to fire rockets and terror acts against Israelis go on as I speak .

So allow me to tell the truth about what Israel did in Gaza.

One- Israel defended its population against aggression by a terrorist organization. A terrorist organization which serially rejected every cease-fire proposed.

Two- Israel went to extraordinary length to minimize the impact of the violence on Gaza's civilian population. It went to great length to warn the civilian population on impending strikes.

Three- Israel is fully committed to investigating all alleged violations of the Laws of Armed Conflict. Israel's investigative mechanism has already filtered close to 200 cases. Over 100 of these cases have been handed over to the Military Advocate General.

Four- however, Justice must be done, first and foremost. The Chair of the Commission of Inquiry has stated in her press conference that Israel has a robust system for investigating alleged violations. It must be allowed to complete its course.

Five- Israel is carefully studying all reports on Operation Protective Edge, whatever their source, flaws or bias .

Mr. President,

I believe these five points should satisfy any reasonable and fair demands of Israel. But we are not dealing here with fairness or moral integrity. We are dealing with a UN organ that is highly politicized, obsessive with Israel, ignoring serious situations of human rights violations across the globe and spending its scarce resources of money and manpower on reports on my country.

This Council will not succeed in de-legitimizing Israel.

This Council will not succeed in preventing Israel from defending itself and its population .

This council has failed to be a constructive player and promote rapprochement between Israelis and Palestinians.

This Council acts as an agent provocateur feeding the flames, not extinguishing them.

Mr. President,

Israel will strive to remain an island of stability, prosperity and democracy in the ocean of instability, poverty, extremism and violence surrounding us. We will continue to respect International Human Rights Law and IHL. We will defend our people, pursue peace and respect the fundamental principles of democracy and the rule of law which are at the foundations of our state.

In conclusion, allow me to paraphrase Cato the Elder and declare that the infamous Item 7 should be abolished.

Thank you, Mr. President.