



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 29th Session – ITEM 4 – June 2015**

General Debate

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel remains deeply concerned by the deplorable human rights situation in the world, specifically in the Middle East.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran executions multiply by the day, journalists are imprisoned, minorities are persecuted and women are discriminated against;

In Yemen almost two thousands civilians were killed since March;

In Saudi Arabia, women are still subject to discrimination and the use of torture and executions has increased;

In Qatar hundreds of foreign workers were killed due to harsh conditions and exploitation. And these are just some examples.

Across the Middle East political dissidents, journalists and human rights activists are detained and prosecuted without due process.

Mr. President,

The battle lines in the Middle East are drawn by the extreme ideologies of ISIL on the one hand and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the other. A plethora of violent radical non-state actors, supported by states sitting in this Chamber, terrorize the population.

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims all human beings to be born free and equal in dignity and rights. But millions of people in our region are denied their rights. They look to the Human Rights Council for remedy and are frustrated. This Council is politicized, selective and biased and instead of discussing the root causes of extreme Islamist Terrorism, it prefers to exhibit hypocrisy and double standards .

Mr. President,

I hope the day will come when the Human Rights Council will identify and confront the enemies of peace. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, ISIL, Al Qaida, Hezbollah, Boko Haram and other birds of similar feathers are just such enemies.

Israel, for its part, strives to remain an island of stability, prosperity and democracy in this sea of political instability, poverty and violence. We will defend our people, pursue peace and respect the fundamental principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, which are the foundations of our State.

Thank you.