



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 30th Session – ITEM 4 – September 2015**

General Debate

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel is deeply concerned by the human rights situation around the world, and especially in the Middle East .

Iran continues its notorious campaign of executions. According to reliable sources, Iran executed more than 600 individuals so far this year. Journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders are being detained for expressing their opinion.

In Yemen, the fighting goes on, and a humanitarian disaster turns into a catastrophe.

Iraq, Libya and Syria are torn apart, and civilians pay the price of internal conflicts and political upheavals.

The humanitarian crisis regarding migrants and refugees is caused by repressive regimes and terrorist groups in the Middle East. Syria, Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Daesh, and Al-Qaida – all of them and many others, contribute to the tragedy unfolding across Europe.

Mr. President,

In Jerusalem, radical Islamist rioters on Temple Mount have deliberately desecrated, damaged and endangered a site holy to Muslims and to Jews, turning it into a battle field, using stones, Molotov cocktails and explosive devices. Israel will not allow the al-Aqsa mosque to become a terrorist stronghold. Israel will uphold the status-quo and protect the right of Muslims to pray in the al-Aqsa mosque and all people to visit Temple Mount.

Over recent months, there has been a sharp increase in violent attacks in Jerusalem and its environs, including stone-throwing, stabbings and shootings.

On Jewish New Year's Eve, 13 September, Alexander Levlovich, 64, father of three, was murdered when his car was struck by rocks thrown by Palestinian

youths. Israel is committed to take the necessary measures to restore public order and will not tolerate such violence.

Mr. President,

Human rights and peace are intertwined. Let us show solidarity with those facing persecution and commit ourselves to work for peace and dignity for all people.

Thank you, Mr. President.