



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council
HRC 31st Session – Item – March 2016

General Debate

Thank you, Mr. President.

The people of the Middle East are torn between ISIS and the Islamic Republic of Iran, suffering violence, extremism and terrorism.

ISIS, Al-Qaida, Hamas, Hezbollah, Boko-Haram, Al-Shabbab and many more represent extreme Islamist ideologies, thriving on deprivation, hate and virulent incitement, denying the right of others to exist.

Mr. President,

Last week, an American tourist was murdered and 14 Israelis injured in a deadly stabbing spree. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhiri stated: *“Hamas congratulates the three heroic operations this evening, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Jaffa. Hamas celebrates the martyrs that have ascended to paradise through these operations, and confirms that their pure blood will, God willing, be the fuel for escalating the intifada”*. In recent months, 34 Israelis were killed and hundreds wounded in murderous attacks, a result of systematic incitement and indoctrination coming directly from Palestinian leaders, official media channels and social network sites.

On 16th February this year, Hezbollah leader Nasrallah, whose organization was officially branded a terrorist one by the Arab League, threatened to hit the Ammonia storage facility in Haifa Bay and cause heavy loss to Israeli civilian lives, comparing the damage to one caused by an atomic bomb.

Is the Human Rights Council looking to condemn these two incidents?

Last week, Iran, whose Representative sits a few seats to my left in this chamber, tested its ballistic missiles' capabilities. According to the semiofficial Fars news agency, some missiles had the following Hebrew text written on them: *"Israel must be wiped off the face of the Earth"*. My basic human right to life and that of my family and co-citizens is threatened and I demand this Council to do something about it.

Mr. President,

Israelis will continue to protect their country, develop it through industry and innovation, thrive in it with democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and seek Peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.