



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council
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General Debate

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,
Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

Very recently, the High Commissioner has highlighted the increase of xenophobia, racism and prejudice that are *“metastasizing across Europe and other countries”*. Israel joins him in his concern about this situation.

Unfortunately, anti-Semitic attacks are still happening, all across the world. Earlier this month, the Living Memorial, a grassroots monument in memory of the 600,000 victims of the Holocaust in Hungary, was vandalized in Budapest. In Argentina and Brazil, swastikas have been drawn next to Jewish institutions, and we have witnessed physical assault of Jews and the murder of a Jew in Uruguay, on Anti-Semitic grounds. But I cannot fail to mention the shameful State sponsored Third edition of Iran’s Holocaust Cartoon Contest held in Teheran this year.

Mr. President,

Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has recently recognized that *“Antisemitism is one of the world’s oldest and most pernicious and deadly forms of hatred”*.

Israel believes that education continues to be the most important vehicle for defending Human Rights, the fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination.

Based on that belief, on September 7, 2016, Israel, Canada, the United States, and the European Union, jointly hosted a full day forum on global Antisemitism, at the Headquarters in New York. Also, you can all visit the current exhibition on the Salle des Pas Perdus which carries the voices of 35 Holocaust survivors.

Nonetheless this Council must understand that Anti-Semitism is not the problem of one country; or that fighting it is a duty of one or a few States alone. We must all join efforts to prevent it and combat it: States, the UN, civil society, and each one of our population.

Mr. President,

I would like to propose to the States present in this Chamber, to join Israel in its fight for the promotion of Human Rights and against racism and anti-Semitism.

I ask this Council to learn from the past, and avoid the repetition of history. Let's work together to avoid the expansion of hate and discrimination.

Thank you.