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**UN Human Rights Council**  
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**Clustered ID with Special Rapporteur on Terrorism and  
Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights**

Delivered by Mr. Yoel Mester,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to thank the two special rapporteurs for their presentations.

When it comes to terrorism, Israel is confronted with a double challenge: on the one hand mitigating the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights by Israeli civilians. On the other, maintaining the highest standards in its fight against those who are responsible for terror.

Addressing this double challenge is far from being an easy task. But Israel, a haven of Western values in the midst of a region where human rights are too often trodden upon, employs strict Human Rights standards in its fight against terrorism.

Palestinian terror took the lives of 17 Israelis in 2016, with yet more attacks taking place in the beginning of this year. Most of the attackers were young men or women without prior involvement in terrorism. They were driven to committing these acts by irresponsible leaders who create a culture of hatred, glorify terrorists as "martyrs", and use religious sentiment to incite.

The human rights of civilians, both Jewish and Arab, are threatened by the fact that Gaza is still controlled by an oppressive non-state terrorist entity, Hamas. Despite its attempts to rehabilitate its image abroad, Hamas has never given up its terroristic ways, or its objective to destroy Israel.

The human rights of the people of the region are threatened also by fact that the Iranian-sponsored terror group Hizbullah, keeps arming itself while sending belligerent messages towards Israel.

What it takes for terror in the Middle East to be defeated, is that countries in the region fight it together, alongside the international community. For Israel, terrorism is not just a local problem. We have decades-long experience fighting it, and this knowledge can be shared with other countries, now that terrorism has unfortunately become a global scourge.

I thank you Mr. President.