
UN Human Rights Council
34th Session, Item 4 – March 15, 2017

General Debate

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

This week we heard about the abuse of human rights by the Iranian and Syrian regimes. It was a total manifestation of absurdity to hear the Iranian and Syrian allegations against Israel.

Israel is extremely concerned by the daily abuse and depravation of human rights in these countries, and the prevention of freedom of speech and expression of so many who criticize their governments and disagree to their cruelty, execution of juveniles, and persecution of minorities.

In recent years we have been witnessing the spread of terrorism, Global Jihad, culminating in the crimes of ISIL terrorists in the Middle East and beyond.

The Hizbullah terror organization, Iran's proxy, continues to operate unhindered in Lebanon. Iran continues to be a major sponsor of terrorism both in the region and beyond. The Hamas terror organization in Gaza continues to trample the human rights of its own people, torturing them, executing people in unfair trials, and oppressing women and the LGBTI people .

Hamas' daily incitement against Israel, brainwashing the hearts and minds of young children, organizing military summer camps for 5 year olds, and teaching them to hate Israelis and to cherish death should be of this Council's concern. Hamas has further abused the population in Gaza and instead of taking care of their well-being, continues to build attack tunnels against Israelis and rockets to shell residential areas.

We are concerned that incitement continues to be an instrument used by Palestinian Authority officials in schools and by religious leaders .

Thank you Mr. President.