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**UN Human Rights Council**  
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**ID with the SR on independence of judges and lawyers**

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

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Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Israel believes that the separation of powers and judicial independence are fundamental for the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his first report .

Israel is an active party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to the UN Convention against Corruption, as well as to other international instruments in this regard.

In Israel, the absolute independence of the judiciary and the public's constitutional right of access to court proceedings both criminal and civil, is guaranteed by law .

Israeli courts, led by the Supreme Court, continue to play a crucial role in anchoring and promoting human rights in Israeli society. They enjoy complete independence and highly regarded worldwide. Judges are appointed by the President, on the recommendation of a special nominations committee comprised of Supreme Court judges, members of the bar, ministers and Parliament members. Judges' appointments are with tenure, until mandatory retirement at age 70.

Magistrates' and District Courts exercise jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases, while juvenile, traffic, military, labor and municipal appeal courts each deal with matters coming under their jurisdiction .

The Supreme Court, has nationwide jurisdiction. It is the highest court of appeal on rulings of lower tribunals. In its capacity as High Court of Justice, the Supreme Court hears petitions in constitutional and administrative law issues against government body or agent, and is a court of first and last instance.

Although legislation is wholly within the competence of the Israeli Parliament, the Supreme Court can and does call attention to the desirability of legislative changes. It also has the authority to determine whether a law properly conforms with the Basic Laws of the State and to declare a law void .

I thank you Mr. President.