
UN Human Rights Council
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Universal Periodic Review - General Debate

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

In his oral update, the High Commissioner recognized that Anti-Semitism “remains still present in far too many places around the world.” (end of quote)

Recently we have seen the expansion of hate speech –specially through social media and the discourse of political parties–, Holocaust denial, desecration of memorials and cemeteries, appearance of swastikas, BDS support, Anti-Semitic conferences, among others, in countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Argentina, Brazil, México, Venezuela, several EU member states, just to name a few.

It should be stressed though that, in most of these cases, the crimes have not been ignored by the respective governments.

This gives us hope, but does not decrease the need to educate future generations about the dangers of Anti-Semitism. One commendable example is the inauguration of a new Holocaust Museum in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Mr. President,

Last April, Secretary-General Guterres said that “the modern form of anti-Semitism is the denial of the existence of the State of Israel”.

Unfortunately, many of the countries in this room have yet to reach this understanding. Some even continue to incite, promote and reward hateful actions.

Last week Border Police fighter, Hadas Malka, was killed in a terrorist attack. But instead of condemning the attack, Fatah – which is headed by Abu Mazen – issued a statement in which it condemns the fighters who killed the terrorists, and praises the murderers as heroes. The Palestinian Authority is refusing to condemn the murder and will now pay financial compensation to the murderers' families.

Mr. President,

As Mr. Guterres said “The glorification of terrorism, or the perpetrators of heinous terrorist acts, is unacceptable under any circumstances”.

Thank you.