
UN Human Rights Council
37th Session – February 28, 2018

High Level Segment - General Segment

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

Madam Vice President,

Present with us here today is Mrs. Zehava Shaul, mother of Oron Shaul, our missing soldier since summer 2014, who was kidnapped through an attack tunnel and held since in Gaza by Hamas terror organization. For more than 3.5 years our two missing soldiers, Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin and 2 civilians, are held by Hamas without any information regarding their situation being released in violation of International Law. The Hamas is further manifesting its brutality and cruelty by cynically releasing pictures and messages of its captives, all fake!, to add pain and suffering to Oron's mother, his family and loved ones.

We call today upon the International Community to fulfil its duty and responsibility and pressure Hamas until this unacceptable and cruel abuse of human rights comes to its end. Mrs. Shaul deserves to have an end and closure to this inhumane uncertainty and suffering.

Madam Vice President,

This Council gave the floor yesterday to the Iranian Justice Minister, personally implicated in Human Rights violations. This is appalling!

In Syria, just over the last 8 days, 556 people among them dozens of children were killed by the bombardments of the regime, in Eastern Ghouta. Reports of use of chemical weapons are further testament to the cruelty of the Syrian regime and to its atrocities.

Iran continues with its scheme to destabilize the region and fortify the terror infrastructures both in Syria and Lebanon, transferring hundreds of missiles and other weapons to their proxy, the Hezbollah terror organization.

Madam Vice President,

Secretary-General Guterres said at his opening speech to this session (and I quote):

“We must speak up for human rights in an impartial way without double standards. And we must invest in human rights and recognize them as values and goals unto themselves – and not allow human rights to be instrumentalized as a political tool.” (end of quote)

What can be a better example of this partiality and politicization than the item 7 on the HRC agenda? The double standards and bias against the State of Israel, the only democracy in the middle east and the one and only home of the Jewish people should raise bigger questions about the countries that insist on keeping this agenda item, above all, the Palestinians. It’s time to see the constant discrimination of Israel in this council, by the resolutions that pass by an automatic majority, as stemming out of deeper reasons. Listen to the incitement in the Palestinian Territories, nurturing the younger generations with hatred and anti-Semitic feelings.

While Antisemitism is raising its ugly head in many countries, the reports and resolutions that are aimed at the creation of databases, boycott and divestment are yet another manifestation of the bias against the Jewish State. Let us acknowledge this shameful reality in this Council and say enough is enough.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights said in the opening of the session:

“When an elected leader blames the Jews for having perpetrated the Holocaust, and we give this disgraceful calumny so little attention, the question must be asked: have we all gone completely mad?” (end of quote)

Madam Vice President,

Let me leave this Council with this question,
HAVE WE ALL GONE COMPLETELY MAD?

I thank you Madam Vice President.