
UN Human Rights Council
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Secretary General's Report on Iran

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

The presentation of the Secretary General's report on human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran is important, because it prompts the Council to hold a much needed discussion on the issue. We have heard about the dire human rights situation in Iran during the presentation of the report of the late Special Rapporteur. We would like to take the opportunity of today's discussion to remind the Council how Iran's subversive activities in the Middle East put the human rights of the people of the region in jeopardy.

Iran continues to be the main cause of instability in the Middle East by financing terror organizations as proxies like Hezbollah, Hamas and Houthis in Yemen. When the leaders of Iran openly call for the destruction of Israel, most recently by General Qasem Soleimany, they threaten the right to life of Israeli civilians. And when members of Iran's revolutionary guard, and Iranian sponsored militias and proxies, commit crimes alongside the Syrian government forces, international community should take decisive measures to stop them.

Mr. President,

Once again we would like to draw the Council's attention to the presence of thousands of mercenaries imported by Iran from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq to fight in Syria. Iran takes advantage of the plight of Afghan refugees to recruit them as cannon fodder in the Syrian war.

I thank you Mr. President.