
UN Human Rights Council
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Summary Executions, Freedom of Expression

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to thank both Rapporteurs for their reports.

We acknowledge the important contribution of the Rapporteur on Summary Executions to the discussion on the accountability of armed non-state actors. One cannot overstate the urgency of tackling the issue of the responsibility of terrorist organizations to human rights violations, which has hardly received the attention it deserves.

Israel has had to cope with the scourge of terrorism since before its establishment. Today, we are faced with a hostile entity on our border run for more than a decade by the Hamas terror organization. For Palestinians and Israelis alike, the protection gaps against Hamas terror are immense, and so are the accountability deficits.

Hamas, whose stated goal is the destruction of the State of Israel, has for years been responsible for largescale and systematic violations of the right to life of Israelis. It has perfected the use of its own civilians as human shields as one of its principal tactics. Hamas does not even consider itself bound by the most basic human rights or international law obligations. It fails miserably in fulfilling all of the eight conditions demanded by the Rapporteur in article 101 of her report, and nevertheless it is almost never subject to scrutiny. We join the Rapporteur in calling the Council and Special Procedures to increase their focus on violations committed by terrorist organizations.

Mr. President,

We also take note of the valuable contribution of the Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression to the debate on human rights on the internet. Ensuring free expression online is no doubt a shared responsibility of the stakeholders and requires a careful balance.

I thank you Mr. President.