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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**39<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 4 – September 18, 2018**

**General Debate**

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Yesterday we made clear our concern about Iran's military entrenchment in Syria. But this type of regional aggression exercised by Iran is known in other parts of the Middle East, most notably in Lebanon and Yemen.

By its own admission, Iran has been a principal backer of the violent riots staged by Hamas along the border between Gaza and Israel. When the supreme leader of Iran tweets that "Israel is a malignant cancerous tumor in West Asia that has to be removed and eradicated", the human rights bodies should be the first to reject such despicable statements which have no place in the international discourse of civilized countries.

Meanwhile, Iran's domestic human rights record continues to be dismal under the heavy handed control of the Revolutionary Guard, with continuing executions of minors, persecution of journalists as in the case of BBC in Persian, and arbitrary detention of human rights activists and holders of dual nationalities. The situation of the Kurd, Christian and Baha'i minorities continues to be concerning.

Mr. President,

We call on the Human Rights Council to pay more attention to the violations of human rights committed systematically and without a shred of accountability by terrorist non-state actors in control of territories, such as Hamas in Gaza. Similarly, the existence of a heavily armed terrorist militia like Hizbullah in Lebanon threatens the very sovereignty of this country as well as the human rights of the peoples of the region.

I thank you Mr. President.