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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Session – Item 2, March 7, 2019**

**ID with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

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

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Madame High Commissioner, Mr. President,

In the 90 seconds I have, it is impossible to relay the true story, the facts of history, or the reality on the ground.

I can but ask these unanswered questions:

How is it possible to totally ignore the terrible costs and challenges of terrorism Israelis face daily, including the recent brutal murder of a teenager by a Palestinian because she was a Jew and an Israeli? What about Israeli human rights?

How is it possible not to mention that the Hamas terror organization is the main instigator of the so-called civilian demonstrations? That Hamas uses Palestinian children as human shields to further its stated aim to penetrate the border and kill Israelis, in gross violation of international law.

How is it possible to ignore that Israel unilaterally disengaged from Gaza 13 years ago? Yet, the Palestinians missed another opportunity to give a chance for peaceful co-existence?

How is it possible not to mention the Palestinian Authority's responsibility for mounting socio-economic pressures in Gaza?

The Commission of Inquiry was given a mandate to investigate only the Jewish state. Ignoring Israel's legal right and duty to defend its citizens is discrimination, not human rights.

Israel is dealing with a terror organization, which acts in complete disregard of the most basic legal standards.

Hamas congratulated the COI and embraced its recommendations. Does anyone seriously believe that Israel should welcome such a hostile report or its far reaching recommendations?

We regret civilian casualties, but you need to acknowledge the reality on the ground.

I thank you.