
UN Human Rights Council
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General Debate

Thank you, Mr. President.

Southern Israel is burning, but not due to the summer heat. More than 26 thousand square kilometers of land were burnt in 2018 alone because of incendiary balloons and other devices sent from Gaza. The fires incur significant economic costs on the residents of Southern Israel, whose livelihood is negatively affected, in addition to the safety hazard they constitute.

This amounts to a clear human rights violation by Hamas, a non-state terrorist organization in control of the Gaza Strip, responsible for the killing of scores of Israeli civilians throughout the years. The Government of Israel is taking steps to ease the plight of the Israeli residents in the regions adjacent to Gaza, but the international community should stop ignoring them and start condemning Hamas.

The international community should also turn its attention to the irresponsible decisions of the Palestinian Authority, which have a negative effect on the rights of Israelis and Palestinians alike. When presented with a new and promising way of thinking about the economic future of ordinary Palestinians, the PA leadership simply dismissed it, and even went so far as to throw in jail a Palestinian businessman who dared to participate in the Bahrain workshop. This same Palestinian Authority insists on funding and compensating convicted terrorists, so much so, that it refuses to receive any money transfers from Israel unless they include these blood monies.

Mr. President,

Last week we commemorated 25 years since the bombing against the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, a stark reminder of how far the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to go in promoting international terrorism. We call on the Council to turn its light on this dark side of Iran's terroristic behavior and expose the many ways it threatens the right to life of innocent people in Middle East and beyond.

I thank you Mr. President.