
UN Human Rights Council
42nd Session, Item 2 – September 10, 2019

General Debate on High Commissioner's Oral Update

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

Thank you Mr. President,

In response to the High Commissioner's oral update, let us be careful not to adopt a distorted narrative of the complex reality on the ground. Yes, there is still an unresolved political conflict between us and the Palestinians, but Jewish settlements are not the core issue or obstacle to resolving it. Rather, it is the deeper question of the Palestinian readiness to live peacefully side by side with Israel.

Palestinian incitement cannot be overstated. All one needs to do is listen to the daily incitement coming from the highest echelons of the Palestinian Authority, as well as their diplomatic representatives.

In this context, we were appalled to hear last month, the venomous words of the Palestinian Permanent Representative speaking in front of the Committee on Racial Discrimination, praising the 1975 UN resolution 3379 equating Zionism to racism. The fact that this shameful resolution was abolished already in 1991, has not yet permeated among Palestinian leaders and their representatives.

An impartial account of the situation cannot ignore the repeated attacks committed by Palestinian terrorists against Israeli citizens, or be oblivious to the suffering of the victims of terror. It cannot turn a blind eye on the culture of hatred and glorification of murderers of Israelis who are being paid by the Palestinian Authority. Israel is a strong democracy that will continue to protect its citizens as long as the Palestinians are refusing to become a partner.

I thank you, Mr. President.