
UN Human Rights Council
42nd Session, Item 3 – September 11, 2019

ID with the WG on Enforced Disappearances

Delivered by Mr. Yoel Mester
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to thank the Independent Expert for her important report.

Following her conclusions and recommendations, we would like to share some of the good practices taking place in Israel:

- The IDF and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social services provide specialized information for persons with limited mobility, hearing, visual and other impairment related to age on how to prepare to two main kinds of emergency situations that threaten Israel: rocket fire from Gaza or from the North border, and earthquakes;
- Local authorities (municipalities) are continuously involved in the preparation, information and drills for these situations;
- The IDF Home Front Command has developed a specific Guide for emergency situations for persons with disabilities and older persons;
- The Ministry of Social Affairs manages a hotline for older persons and persons with disabilities, where up-to-date information can be obtained on the preparation for emergency situations, suited to different kinds of needs;
- Information is also published in various foreign languages, in order to make it accessible to foreign workers employed in nursing elderly citizens and persons with disabilities, and to prepare them to deal with emergency situations while protecting the cared person;
- Those with hearing disabilities – are entitled to a free "beeper" device that warns them of emergency situations, provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- The state manages nursing homes and other institutions for elderly citizens, and they are prepared for responding to emergency situations. A national absorption center for older persons and persons with disabilities in Jerusalem, in addition to 4 thousand beds in seven adapted hotels throughout the country, are ready to house this population in case of evacuation or displacement due to emergencies.

Mr. President,

We agree with the IE on the need to be prepared and to include the needs of older persons in every aspect of preparedness and response to emergencies. In this regard, as shown, Israel is committed to do so, and to ensure that no one is left behind.

I thank you Mr. President.