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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**45<sup>th</sup> Session, 25 September 2020**

**Item 4: General Debate**

Adv. Meirav Marks  
Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Israel

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Thank you Madam President,

Israel is concerned with several human rights situations that require the Council's attention- but don't get it.

We are concerned with the situation in Lebanon, where Iran's proxy Hizbullah continues to hold the entire state of Lebanon hostage to its radical and destructive agenda. It deprives UNIFIL of its ability to fulfil its mandate, and increases its efforts to convert its huge arsenal of rockets into precision guided missiles. An important part of Hizbullah's strategy is to use the local population as human shields, putting the illegitimate interests of Iran before the people of Lebanon. The terrible explosion that took place in Beirut is a clear demonstration of that. Iranian-funded precision-guided missiles will not help ordinary Lebanese who are suffering from the economic crisis and COVID-19.

In addition, the Council hardly ever pays attention to the dire human rights situation in Iran, where women, youth, journalists, NGO's, LGBTI people, members of minority groups and member of the opposition- all see their rights systematically violated. We all have to remember that Iran is a country where people are still stoned to death, where the security apparatuses conduct widespread torture, flogging, electric shocks, and sexual violence. A country where people disappear.

We call on the HRC to urgently turn the spotlight on the human rights violations by the Iranian regime. The amount of attention it gets should be commensurate to the gravity of these violations.

I thank you.