
**UN Human Rights Council
45th Session, 29 September 2020**

Item 5 – General Debate

Madam President,

While Israel supports special procedures, we must refer to the continued existence of the blatantly politicized mandate on the “Occupied Palestinian Territory”. The resolution that established it in 1993, based on a thin majority of votes, charged it to investigate “Israel’s violations of international law”, effectively pre-determining the existence of such violations and ignoring that any other actors could possibly violate human rights in the region.

This is also the only open-ended mandate of the Special Procedures, while even paramount human rights issues on the global agenda, such as freedom of expression or contemporary forms of racism, are addressed by mandates that are up for renewal every three years.

On top of that, the current mandate holder has broken records of bias. Since before his nomination in 2016, he was a well-known anti-Israel activist for decades. In his academic capacities, Mr. Lynk promoted “Israeli Apartheid Week” events; signed anti-Israel petitions; called to prosecute Israel for alleged war crimes; and called Israel’s very creation in 1948, “the start of ethnic cleansing.”

As Special Rapporteur, he has relied on biased and distorted information, and published press releases on purely political issues before they could have any impact – positive or negative – on the human rights situation in the territories.

Madam President,

We must protest on the strongest terms this one-sided mandate, dedicated solely to delegitimize and demonize Israel, thereby tainting the credibility and reputation of this Council.

Thank you, Madam President.