
UN Human Rights Council
47th Session, July 2021, Item 6

UPR Adoption - Lebanon

Delivered by Adv. Merav Marks
Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Thank you Madam President,

Israel is extremely disappointed that Lebanon chose to reject all our recommendations during their most recent UPR review, claiming they do not recognize my country. It is disgraceful that Lebanon continues to reject my country's existence, a UN member State since 1949.

The second reason Lebanon gave for rejecting our recommendations is that they were politically motivated and outside the scope of the UPR. Let me reassure you that our recommendations were well within the scope of the Universal Periodic Review. Let me repeat them:

1. to adopt all necessary steps to ensure the safety of peaceful protestors;
2. to immediately end the recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups;

Our third recommendation was that Lebanon immediately implements Security Council resolutions, and disbands and disarms all militias and terrorist entities such as Hezbollah. This recommendation was also rejected by Lebanon, because they claim it defames a Lebanese political party, which is part of their resistance.

Madam President,

Hezbollah is indeed part of the Lebanese resistance. They resist human rights, resist freedom of speech and assembly, resist the Lebanese people's will, resist justice and resist responsibility. Hezbollah is a terrorist organisation that is clearly recognized as such not only by Israel, but by numerous other countries. The United States, Canada, the Gulf Cooperation Council and its members, Netherlands, UK, Estonia, Argentina, Guatemala, Paraguay, Germany, and Slovenia, just to name a few, have all proscribed Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

It is time for the delegation to stop defending the multiple and horrendous human rights abuses carried out by Hezbollah, a terrorist organization, and to start taking into consideration the recommendations by the international community for the well-being of the Lebanese people.

Thank you.