
UN Human Rights Council
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**Panel Discussion on the Promotion Protection of Human Rights in the
context of Peaceful Protests**

Delivered by Adv. Merav Marks
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Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

Israel thanks the panelists for their contributions, and welcomes the opportunity to engage in this discussion.

Recognizing the vital importance that the right to protest has to the democratic fabric of society, the government of Israel refrained from blank prohibitions of peaceful protests and demonstrations, even during the strictest lockdown periods, when most non-vital social interactions were severely restricted.

Furthermore, Israel's Supreme Court has reviewed petitions addressing restrictions on the realization of protests during lockdowns, striking down in April 2020 a requirement that participants only organize and join assemblies within 1 kilometer from their homes. This ruling highlighted the need to allow public criticism of the authorities, even during emergency times.

Mr. Vice-President,

New technologies can maximize people's participation in peaceful assemblies, by allowing them to more effectively organize and receive information about assemblies. In this context, it is necessary to protect the use of such technologies due to the central role they have in facilitating the exercise of these human rights.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.