
UN Human Rights Council
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Item 3: ID with SR on peaceful assembly

Mr. Ilay Levi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel

Thank you, Mr President.

Israel takes note of the report of the special rapporteur.

The Israeli Supreme Court described Democracy in the following terms - and i quote: "Democracy is primarily a regime of consent.. and the democratic process is therefore, a process of choosing common goals of the people and the ways of their fulfillment.... by a visible debate of the problems on the State's agenda and the free exchange of opinions". End of quote.

The right to peaceful assembly is a fundamental democratic right in Israel that is strongly upheld. The legislative process that Israel is undergoing these days has stirred up a vibrant public debate leading to mass peaceful demonstrations of hundreds of thousand of people, all across Israel, for the past 25 weeks.

Mr. president,

Accountability for violations of the right to peaceful assembly is important for the protection of the right and for the development of strong legislation to protect those who wish to protest.

It is well established in Israel that the police have an obligation to protect the right to peaceful assembly and to protect the people exercising this right, regardless of the topic raised by the demonstration, or the identity of its participants.

The Israeli Department of Internal Police Investigations, is an independent authority, aimed at protecting the population from police brutality and abuse of power and mandated to investigate police officers that are suspected of committing a felony.

Israel wishes to ask- what are the main challenges facing law enforcement dealing with peaceful assemblies that turn violent and what are the best practices to overcome them.