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**UN Human Rights Council**

**55th Regular Session – 5 April 2024**

**Item 2 - Resolution Adoption**

Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar

Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President,

For years, Israel has been calling on this Council to condemn Hamas, to call out its inhumanity, and to call for accountability and justice for Israeli victims of terrorism.

Yet even after the worst massacre against the Jewish people since the Holocaust, indeed one of the deadliest and most brutal terrorist attacks of modern times, the Council has once again failed to do so.

So let me ask,

How many dead Israelis will it take to condemn Hamas? 1200 murdered is not enough.

What atrocities will warrant condemnation? The Rape, Mutilation and torture of Israelis was not enough.

How many victims must there be for this Council to address Palestinian terrorism?

How many stockpiles of weapons, terrorist headquarters, tunnel shafts, must be revealed in hospitals, schools, and UN facilities before this Council takes it upon itself to denounce the use of civilian infrastructure by terrorist organizations?

According to the resolution before you today Israel has no right to protect its people, while Hamas has every right to murder and torture innocent Israelis. Israel should have stood idly by on October 7, as Hamas unleashed its barbaric acts. On October 8, it should have allowed Hamas to do so again.

According to this resolution, States should not sell arms to Israel in its endeavor to defend its population but they can continue to arm Hamas, supplying them with the same weapon which was pointed at Amit Soussana’s head as she was raped in Hamas captivity.

According to this resolution, there is some kind of distorted equivalence drawn between the hostages still held by Hamas and Hamas terrorists themselves.

That one-year-old Kfir Bibas, and the other 133 hostages held by Hamas are equal to Manar Mahmoud Muhammad Kasem, an Islamic Jihad terrorist who admitted to raping a woman on October 7.

Mr. President,

This Council has long abandoned the Israeli people and long defended Hamas.

It has become a shield for terrorists. It has turned a blind eye to any acts of violence against Israelis and Jews.

I call on Members of this Council: do not succumb to this manifestly distorted text.

A vote yes is a vote for Hamas;

A vote for ignoring the slaughter and rape of my people;

A vote for legitimizing Palestinian terrorism and incitement, while delegitimizing the very real fight against antisemitism.

A vote for undermining Israel's right to defend itself; for equating the plight of the 134 hostages held by Hamas, with Hamas themselves.

Israel will continue to fight Hamas. We will continue to defend our people, and we will bring all 134 hostages home.