



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטים יהודים (ע"ר)
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

January 18, 2016

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
United Nations Secretary-General
United Nations, New York, NY

H.E. Ambassador Choi Kyong-lim
President of the Human Rights Council
United Nations Office in Geneva
Geneva, Switzerland

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon and H.E. Ambassador Choi Kyong-lim,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ) is an international NGO founded in 1969 by Nobel Prize Laureate René Cassin, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, and Israeli Supreme Court Deputy Chief Justice Haim Cohen. The IAJLJ is a UN-accredited NGO and was established, primarily, in order to further the cause of human rights, to act against anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, and to act against all forms of racism.

I write to you because Iran has again announced an international Holocaust denial cartoon contest. According to Iran's IRNA news agency, the contest will be held in June 2016 and is expected to receive submissions from cartoonists from 50 countries.

This is Iran's third Holocaust denial cartoon contest. This contest is sponsored by the Tehran municipal authority and its first prize award was increased from \$12,000 to \$50,000.

We maintain that Iran's claim that these contests are an expression of free speech is specious and in fact constitutes incitement to genocide. Iran's record of Holocaust denial is well known; denial of historic truths such as the Holocaust creates an atmosphere of incitement which could lead to subsequent tragedies

Furthermore, Iran's behavior is inconsistent with various international instruments.

The Preamble of the United Nations Charter call on its members "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours." Article 2 of the Charter states that "All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and, justice, are not endangered." And, "direct and public incitement to commit genocide" is punishable under Article 3 of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

We respectfully submit, based on these international instruments and Iran's persistence practice of Holocaust denial and calls for the elimination of Israel, that your issuance of a condemnation of Iran is warranted. Iran's behavior is inconsistent with any norm of proper international behavior and every measure possible should be taken to condemn Iran for this behavior.

Sincerely

Irit Kohn, Adv.
President