



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

March 28, 2017

H.E. Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli
President, United Nations Human Rights Council
United Nations Office in Geneva
Geneva, Switzerland

By email

Dear Mr. Martelli;

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 has members in 35 countries. We were established, primarily, to further the cause of human rights, to act against anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial, and against racism worldwide, and work to promote legal positions for the benefit of Israel and the Jewish people.

I write to you in response to the Human Rights Council's meeting this past Friday where the Council passed five resolutions condemning Israel.

We are deeply concerned about the disproportionate attention the Council devotes to Israel, this, at the expense of the many serious and pressing human rights issues that deserve more attention. As you know, Israel is the only country singled-out by the Council with its own Agenda Item, and half the Council's resolutions condemn Israel. We submit that the effect of this attitude towards Israel is not simply the neglect of other, more important issues but that it generates an atmosphere towards Israel which makes efforts at conflict resolution more difficult.

As a result, instead of promoting peace and human rights, the Council's actions towards Israel detract from the attention due other human rights issues and contribute to dangerous and life-threatening scenarios that could develop due to the current status of conflict in the region.

We trust that this situation can be improved during your tenure as president of the Human Rights Council.

Respectfully yours,

Adv. Irit Kohn
President