

Human Rights Council 46th Session (March 2021)

Agenda Item 3 – General Debate

NGO: IJL - The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Representative delivering the statement: Ido Rosenzweig

Mr. President,

Seven and a half years ago, in September 2014, Mr. Avraham Mengistu, an Israeli citizen, crossed into the Gaza Strip and has been held incommunicado ever since. The same happened with Mr. Hisham al-Sayed in April 2015.

Both Mr. Mengistu and Mr. Al-Sayed suffer from mental health conditions and they must receive proper medical treatment. This becomes even more important during these days of recurring Covid-19 pandemic waves.

The mental health conditions of Avera and Hisham, are the direct cause, which triggered each one of them to cross into the Gaza Strip. Holding persons with disabilities incommunicado is a cruel, inhumane and cynical act, and one of the most serious violations of international human rights law. Without information about the status and conditions of the disappeared persons, there is a grave concern to their right to life.

We expect that the Human Rights Council, the international community, the Special Rapporteur on the right of persons with disabilities, the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances, and Member States take proactive measures to require the governing authority in Gaza to share the relevant information on their location and conditions, and to let them return to their families immediately.

Thank you, Mr. President