

Human Rights Council 49th Session (March 2022)

Agenda Item 2 – ID with HC report on OPT

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

Representative delivering the statement: Ido Rosenzweig

Thank you, Mr. President.

Madam High Commissioner, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists wishes to convey its concerns about your recent report. The report claims lack of accountability of the Israeli legal system following suspicions or allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.

Armed conflict situations, counter-terrorism activity, and law enforcement operations often entail casualties. This is unfortunate, especially when those harmed are innocent bystanders. However, one must bear in mind that not in every case where a person is harmed, the situation necessarily constitutes a violation of international law. Moreover, a criminal investigation, let alone an indictment, is not a prerequisite to meet the relevant accountability requirements under international law.

Madam High Commissioner, Israel has a strong, independent, and highly respected legal system. Moreover, the Israeli High Court of Justice provides a very broad right of standing for petitioners for allegations of violations of human rights.

As a legal and human rights organization, we strongly believe that it is essential that allegations of violations of international law are thoroughly and effectively examined by appropriate, independent, and impartial authorities. We are certain that the Israeli authorities are capable and willing to do so.

Thank you, Mr. President.