

Human Rights Council 48th Session (September 2021)

Agenda Item 3 – ID with: WG on enforced disappearances

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

Representative delivering the statement:

Madam President,

Exactly 7 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 which triggered them to cross into the Gaza Strip, and they must receive proper medical treatment. This becomes even more important during these days of recurring Covid-19 pandemic waves.

Enforced disappearance is 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. Holding persons with disabilities incommunicado is a cruel, inhumane and cynical act, and one of the most serious violations of international human rights law.

We call the Working group on Enforced Disappearances to take this matter into its attention, and act to ensure that Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed are alive and treated well. We need to ensure that the families of all disappeared persons are immediately informed of their status and conditions.

It is the time that the international community, member states and the working group will act to release Avera and Hisham, and to bring them back home.

Thank you Madam President