



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

Human Rights Council 27th Session

Agenda Item 9 – General Debate

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

Representative delivering the statement: Adv. Tom Gal

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists expresses its deep concern regarding the increase of anti-Semitic incidents in Europe. We are especially worried, due to the escalation of these incidents during the recent conflict between Israel and Hamas, and the cynical use of this conflict and opposition to Israel's policy to mask and camouflage "Jew-hatred". On the floor of this Council, we have voiced alarm many times over the escalation and aggravation of racism and anti-Semitism in Europe. This escalation reflects the rise of extremists and fundamental powers and parties. The strengthening of extremist neo-Nazi parties, many of them elected recently to the European Parliament, on the one hand, and the establishment and reinforcement of fundamental Muslim voices, on the other, led to such escalation.

The various anti-Semitic events that occurred in Europe during this summer, the expressions and statements that have been given a stage—all in the name of opposing Israel's policy—should be unequivocally denounced and condemned. Opposing one state's policy is not equivalent to the spreading of religious hatred and ethnic fear. The forces that use different excuses to slander and harm Jewish communities should be stopped. However, this is not enough. In order to prevent future racism and anti-Semitic incidents, states must concentrate their effort and engage in education and preventive legislation. We strongly believe that such legislation should define anti-Semitism as an offence entailing criminal liability. Only thus can we shape the social consciousness and affect perception of these heinous crimes.

Anti-Semitism, racism against Jews, "Jew-hating" is not a "Jewish problem" – it is a universal problem. Today, it may be Jews who are the target, but tomorrow, as has happened in the past, and is already happening now in different parts of the world, this hate will be directed toward other minorities as well. We urge the Special Rapporteur on racism to consider this to be a matter of grave concern, to monitor it closely and to report to this Council. We expect that such future reports will include not only the positive and negative practices of states in relation to this anti-Semitic wave, but also will suggest effective mechanisms and possible frameworks for cooperation in order to implement any recommendations he shall deem necessary.