



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

April 25, 2013

To: Ms. Navanehem Pillay, the High Commissioner of Human Rights

Re: Mr. Richard Falk, the UN Special Rapporteur "on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967"

Madam High Commissioner,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ) wishes to note its concern and dismay at the remarks made two days ago by Mr. Richard Falk, a UN official and Special Rapporteur on human rights, in connection with the Boston Marathon bombing (an incident in which three people were killed, one of them an 8 year old boy, and more than 170 were injured). According to Mr. Falk, **it is US policy supporting Israel that should be blamed for the bombing**. Needless to say, this statement is outrageous. Unfortunately, it was not the first shameful statement made by Mr. Falk. In 2004 Mr. Falk signed a statement demanding **the reopening of the investigation into the 9/11 attack..** In 2011 Mr. Falk claimed in his blog that **the American government is hiding compelling evidence** in regard to the 9/11 attack (a statement that led the US Ambassador to the UN, Ms. Suzanne Rice, to demand his removal). In an interview conducted in March 2011, Mr. Falk, in his official UN capacity, **endorsed the conspiracy theory regarding the 9/11 attack, suggesting it was an 'inside job'**. On several occasions Mr. Falk has sought to **justify Hamas' use of suicide bombers** (bombers who killed hundreds of innocent civilians) as a legitimate means for pursuing their struggle against the Israeli occupation. Evidently, Mr. Falk is biased.

In light of the above, based on Mr. Falk's repeated appalling statements, it is clear that he is incapable of properly conducting his work as Special Rapporteur. Mr. Falk's disgraceful words do not serve nor do they promote human rights. The opinions expressed in his capacity as a UN official damage the perception of the UN and the Office of the High Commissioner as trustworthy, impartial and reliable institutions. Accordingly, the IAJLJ urges the High Commissioner to remove Mr. Falk from his duties with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely,

Irit Kohn, Adv.

President



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