



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

2015 Newsletter

Meir Rosenne: A dear friend departs

As many of you have may already know, Dr. Meir Rosenne, who for the last several years served as a vice-president of IAJLJ, passed away last month. It was a great privilege to have worked with this dear man of major accomplishment, and he will be greatly missed. IAJLJ President Irit Kohn has written a warm and sensitive [obituary](#) that will appear in the next issue of Justice. Meir Rosenne, who dedicated his life to the Jewish people and to the State of Israel, served, among other roles, as Ambassador to France and to the United States, as President of Israel Bonds, as Legal Advisor to the Foreign Ministry, and among the drafters of the Camp David Accords. May his memory be for a blessing.

UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict

As you know, the establishing document of the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict was in effect an indictment against the State of Israel. For this and other reasons, the State of Israel elected not to cooperate with the commission. Notwithstanding, IAJLJ believes that there is room to make the voices of Israeli victims heard and to present to members of the commission details of the harm and damages caused to residents of Israel's southern communities. Hence, IAJLJ provided commission investigators with evidence from residents of southern communities as well as a variety of professional materials. In January 2015 IAJLJ sent six witnesses and its, Chief Executive Officer Ronit Gidron-Zemach, to appear before the commission in Geneva and give evidence. We invite you to read more about this project, including interviews with witnesses, on our [homepage](#). In light of many other materials the commission has received from various parties, publication of its report has been postponed to June 2015. To keep updated, follow the announcements on our website and on our Twitter account.

Human Rights Council discussions in March

During March, Suzanne Wolfe Martin, IAJLJ's Board Member, appeared as IAJLJ's representative to the Human Rights Council with respect to two matters. The first, with respect to Agenda Item [7 GD](#), expressed IAJLJ's protest of the item's existence, as its core is the essential evil of the existence of the State of Israel. On the other matter, Agenda Item [9](#), we repeated our warnings about rising anti-Semitism around the world (especially in light of recent incidents) and called for the Special Rapporteur to take operative measures in this regard, not merely to report on events and condemn them.



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An evening at the Israel Embassy in Paris

On March 23, His Excellency Yossi Gal, Israel's Ambassador to France, hosted French members of IAJLJ for a discussion with IAJLJ President Irit Kohn. Irit noted the saddening anti-Semitic events that cost human life that had taken place recently in Paris. She also discussed the global activities of IAJLJ and the need to strengthen the connection among Jewish lawyers in France and in general. Our French friends, we call upon you to join the association.

IAJLJ organizes UN side event on human rights and terrorism

On March 25, IAJLJ, using its standing as an NGO recognized by the UN, organized a [side event](#) at the Human Rights Council on the subject of human rights and terrorism. The discussions focused on Hamas as a terrorist organization, and included examples of its behavior, presentation of research studies and statistics, similar materials. The event was attended by some 80 people. The event was moderated by the IAJLJ's President and the speakers included Henrique Zimmerman, a well-known investigative reporter; IAJLJ's Board Member Calev Myers, Chairman of the Jerusalem Institute of Justice; and Bassem Eid, a Palestinian freelance journalist. We will be publishing a report on the event in the forthcoming edition of Justice. In the meantime, you are welcome to watch [video clips](#) on our website.

Update: IAJLJ amicus brief in suit against Israel's attorney general

A few years ago, Israel's attorney general decided not to file charges against a group of rabbis who authored the book "Torat HaMelekh" on the grounds that it does not show an intent to incite, and is a "wanderer" in Jewish law. Eleven individuals and organizations appealed the decision to the High Court of Justice. IAJLJ asked to file an amicus brief, which was granted, and per the court's request, presented its legal opinion on the matter. The Court recently discussed the case, but has yet to hand down its decision. There is great legal difficulty in the Court interfering in a decision of the attorney general, on the one hand given the many precedents, and on the other hand given that this case contains so much that is important from the perspective of values, society and ethics.

Plans for the second half of 2015

- Further to an intimate gathering of Arab and Jewish Israeli lawyers at the President's Residence in Jerusalem where we issued a joint call against racism - a joint committee has been established that will deal, in the future, with extreme cases where both parties see racism on display.
- IAJLJ is planning a series of seminars across European Union countries that will call on EU member states to list anti-Semitism as a crime in their law books.



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Membership Dues

IAJLJ members who have as yet not renewed their membership for 2015 are urged to do so. For your convenience, we have placed on our website an electronic [form](#) that upon completion can be sent to us. We ask you to also request of your professional colleagues to join our association, for it is only that way that we will be able to increase our strength and our ability to meet our objectives. Naturally, we would be delighted to receive your donation. To donate, please contact us at iajlj@goldmail.net.il. We also invite you to follow us on Twitter.