



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

## **September 2014 Newsletter**

### **IAJLJ receives standing at European Parliament and European Commission**

With the granting of standing to IAJLJ by the European Union parliament and commission as of 1 August 2014, IAJLJ will be able to participate in relevant events, debates and panels. Pascal Markowicz, a Parisian lawyer, is IAJLJ's permanent representative to the EU.

### **Operation Protective Edge**

The Israel-Hamas crisis last June began with the kidnapping of the [three teenagers](#), Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaer and Eyal Yifrah, and continued with the kidnapping and murder of [Muhammad Abu Khdeir](#). Cries of racism against Arabs in Israel were heard, and IAJLJ issued declarations against this development, calling for tolerance and condemning the violent behavior of both sides. As Operation Protective Edge moved forward, IAJLJ sent a letter of [protest](#) to Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, taking her to task for not condemning Hamas in her July 11 [declaration](#); issued a [sharp statement](#) attacking the decision of the Human Rights Council to condemn Israel and to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate Israel's conduct without a parallel condemnation of Hamas and investigation of its conduct; and called on the Council's Special Rapporteur on Racism, Mutuma Ruteere, demanding that he condemn the [anti-Semitic statements](#) of the Turkish government leadership. At the end of the operation, the head of IAJLJ's French chapter and representative to the European Parliament, Pascal Markowicz, was [interviewed](#) by France 24, France's international English-language television station.

### **IAJLJ condemns Yazidi genocide**

IAJLJ [appealed strongly](#) in August to Baudelaire Ndong Ella, President of the Human Rights Council, to Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to all HRC member states, to take active steps to prevent the genocide of the Yazidi people. IAJLJ examined the statements and declarations of the High Commissioner, but believes that the messages must be sharper and clearer, and that actions be more pronounced. IAJLJ reminded all of their social, moral and legal obligations, pointing to the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War; the International Declaration of Human Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.



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### **IAJLJ calls on Ban Ki-moon to investigate UNRWA**

Following discoveries on at least three occasions of rockets stored in UNRWA facilities in Gaza in August, IAJLJ [called](#) on UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to open an urgent inquiry into the refugee agency's activities. IAJLJ has been examining UNRWA for more than a year.

### **Seeking legal remedy to growing anti-Semitism on social media**

With anti-Semitism on the rise across Europe, and especially so during and following Operation Protective Edge, IAJLJ [expressed](#) its [concern](#) to UK Home Secretary Theresa May and Cabinet Secretary for Justice of the Scottish Parliament Kenny MacAskill. The letters emphasized IAJLJ's worry about growing anti-Semitism on the Internet, especially on such social media as Facebook and Twitter, and requested that the British authorities widen their inquiries and bring to justice those who seek to harm UK Jewish communities. Further, the letters noted that through its existing anti-hate laws the UK has the tools to fight anti-Semitic crimes, and thus the request that UK law enforcement authorities exercise their mandate and eliminate this scourge.

### **Argentina-Iran 2013 agreement breaches Argentinean constitution**

The agreement reached in 2013 between the governments of Argentina and Iran in the matter of the 1994 terror attacks against Jewish targets in that country are in breach of Argentina's constitution, [determined](#) IAJLJ member Judge Claudia Caputo of Argentina. Her English-language summary of the Spanish document has been can be read on IAJLJ's website.

### **Membership renewal**

As the Jewish New Year approaches, and if you have not already done so, we remind you to renew your IAJLJ membership via the downloadable [membership form](#). Please fill it out and send to us by email, fax or regular post today. Your payment is important, for it makes you a partner to IAJLJ activities around the world by helping to fund IAJLJ initiatives. We also ask that you bring to our attention any subject that you feel IAJLJ should act on.

### **Save the date: 19 November 2014**

Registration has commenced for IAJLJ's [15th Congress](#), to begin in Eilat, Israel, on 19 November 2014. Titled *International Human Rights and Israel – Politicization or a Complex Reality*, the congress will also include elections to the IAJLJ presidency, Executive Committee and Board of Governors. Look for updates and further announcements on IAJLJ's [website](#).

### **Geneva news flash**

Tom Gal, IAJLJ's representative to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, made a number of important presentations to that group. Her presentations will be available on IAJLJ's website very soon.



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IAJLJ President Irit Kohn, IAJLJ Management and IAJLJ Staff wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year, Filled with Peace and Unity.

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רחוב דניאל פריש 10, תל אביב 64731 DANIEL FRISCH STREET, TEL AVIV  
טלפון: 972-3-6910673 TELEPHONE: 972-3-6910673  
פקס: 972-3-6953855 FAX: 972-3-6953855  
IAJLJ@GOLDMAIL.NET.IL WWW.INTJEWISHLAWYERS.ORG