



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

## Human Rights Council 26<sup>th</sup> Session

### Item 9 – General Debate

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

Representative delivering the statement: Adv. Tom Gal

Thank you Mr. President,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists wishes to commend the Special Rapporteur for the thorough report presented to this Council relating to the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 68/150. Resolution 68/150 concerns the protection of vulnerable groups facing racism and other intolerance.

We appreciate the Special Rapporteur's reference to Holocaust denial as a phenomenon of great concern. Holocaust denial should be adequately addressed especially in light of recent attacks against the Jewish community in Europe. Just a few weeks ago, four people were murdered in the Jewish Museum in Belgium. The murders were motivated by hate and anti-Semitism. Although this killer was captured, incitement against Jews and anti-Semitic incidents remain rampant.

Unfortunately, recent elections to the European Parliament reflect the increasing racial intolerance toward Jews and other minorities in Europe. These elections should raise a "red flag" as they highlight the increased political power being gained by racist and separatist groups and the threat being posed to European democracy and the safety of minorities living in Europe.

Although we appreciate the Special Rapporteur's effort to address and confront the issue of Holocaust denial, we believe this is no longer sufficient.. Holocaust denial relies on deeper ills of society. It must be dealt with in a long-term, profound and holistic manner that includes a thorough overhaul of legislation to ensure that statements comprising Holocaust denial and other hate-speech are prohibited by law and that law enforcement authorities and personnel are trained to recognize and properly address such incidents. States should cooperate to ensure zero-tolerance towards incidents of Holocaust denial and hate-speech and prevent the establishment of any "safe-havens" for racism and anti-Semitism. We are aware that progress in the fight against racism and anti-Semitism can only be achieved if it is accompanied by proper education through all levels of society, increased awareness and stronger democratic institutions. Finally, we hope that the Special Rapporteur and this Council will continue to closely monitor these phenomena and review states practice to combat them.