



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

H.E. Ambassador Joachim Rucker
President of the Human Rights Council
United Nations Office in Geneva
Geneva, Switzerland

29 October 2015

Subject: Mahmoud Abbas Statement Before the Human Rights Council, October 28, 2015

Dear Ambassador Rucker,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, is a UN-accredited NGO with ECOSOC status. We would like to raise our concerns regarding yesterday's presentation given by the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas.

While President Abbas mentioned the words "peaceful" and "peace" several times, by not condemning Palestinian terrorist attacks, he continues to silently support these by acquiescence. Sadly, these terror attacks occur on a daily basis in Israel. Yesterday a Palestinian stabbed a 33-years old Israeli woman. No condemnation of this attack as well as previous attacks was made by Mr. Abbas. Unfortunately, President Abbas's statement failed to address the misuse of schools and social platforms to incite to violence. While the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists supports the two-state solution and the right of the Palestinian people for its own state, nonetheless, we cannot remain silent in face of this misrepresentation which only increases tension and animosity.

Moreover, last weekend, Prime Minister Netanyahu met with King Abdullah of Jordan and Secretary John Kerry. During that meeting, Mr. Netanyahu did not only agree to stricter supervision of the Temple Mount area (by using video cameras that will monitor the area 24/7), but he also stated clearly and unequivocally that the Israeli government will not change the *status quo* held until today (i.e. praying in Temple Mount will be allowed to Muslims solely). President Abbas however failed to refer to these matters.

In our opinion, President Abbas's statement does not reflect a perspective that is conducive to restarting peace negotiations but will rather serve to incite more violence and animosity.



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Sincerely,

Irit Kohn
President