



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

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

November 23, 2015

Subject: Special Rapporteurs C. Heyns and M. Wibisono statement of 16 November 2015  
regarding "violence in the Palestinian Occupied Territories"

Dear President Rücker,

As the President of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, I wish to bring to your attention our deep concern regarding the one-sided, partial and biased statement by the Special Rapporteurs Mr. Heyns and Mr. Wibisono on November 16, 2015.

First and foremost, the Special Rapporteurs failed to unequivocally condemn terrorist attacks against civilians, anytime, and for any reason. They also failed to mention that until today, Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas has not condemned the intentional targeting of civilians as a means of warfare and the support these perpetrators receive from different political parties and sectors of Palestinian Society (such as Fatah and Hamas).

Further, although the Special Rapporteurs recall and address the numerous victims from the Israeli side, it seems that only the Israeli authorities, and especially the military and security forces, are explicitly expected to abide by international law. More importantly, in their statement, the Special Rapporteurs failed to mention the role that should be played by the Palestinian Police in preventing attacks and ensuring the punishment of perpetrators. This is surprising, as the Special Rapporteurs did mention the importance of imposing punishment for violence perpetrated by settlers. Did the Special Rapporteurs forget the 60 years-old father, and his 18 years-old son shot dead less than a week ago? Or the four orphans, the youngest less than one year-old, left after their parents were shot dead before their eyes? The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists hereby denounces violence and acts of terror committed by either parties. At the same time, it is infuriating that such a blunt, one-sided and biased opinion is expressed by UN officials.

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



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

Sadly, Special Rapporteur Wibisono, supported by his colleague Special Rapporteur Heyns, frames the context of the current violence as part of “the existing context of policies and practices under the longstanding Israeli occupation which entail violations of Palestinian human rights and raise tensions,” in what seems to be an excuse or justification for this wave of violence and the vicious attacks perpetrated by Palestinians against civilians: men, women and children. The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists emphasizes that there is no justification for terror and the intentional targeting of civilians as a method of warfare.

Therefore, on behalf of the International Association of Jurist Lawyers and Jurists, I wish to express our frustration, disapproval and disappointment with the statement made by these two UN officials who should be expected to be impartial, independent and neutral.

Sincerely,

Irit Kohn  
President