



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

Human Rights Council 22nd Session, 18 March 2013

Item 7 – General Debate

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

Representative delivering the statement: Adv. Tom Gal

Thank you Mr. President,

In light of recent elections and changes in the Middle East, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists wishes to use its statement to encourage both the state of Israel and the Palestinian authorities, to engage in a truthful peace negotiation talks. Unfortunately, it is our impression that such a positive move is not the will of other states and members of this Council. Instead, they rather use the unfortunate situation cynically for their own political interests. Such a case is the proposed resolution on the Occupied Golan Heights.

The resolution on the Golan Heights is being adopted on a yearly basis. This year however, we found it relevant to address its content and ensure state members of this Council are fully aware of the text for which they vote for and its inconsistencies. It is however not our intention to justify or defend any negative practice. Nonetheless, the proposed resolution fails to be clear and factually correct. The Golan Heights have been under Israeli control since 1967. Before 1967, constant rockets launching from Syria terrorized Israeli civilians. As decided by the Security Council, the future of the area should be determined through a genuine peace process, a process difficult to initiate at the moment due to recent events in Syria.

The drafters of the proposed resolution have deviated from reality. Contrary to what is suggested, Syrian nationals held and detained by Israeli authorities are given ICRC visits. Moreover, Syrian citizens are being allowed to visit their families in conformity with international law and while considering security reasons. In the last two years a conflict is occurring in Syria, a fact that renders organization of such family-visits difficult. A fact missing from the proposed resolution. This misinformation should be corrected.

At last, the drafters of the proposed resolution have tried to unite the future of the Golan Heights with that of the OPT *inter alia* by referring to the report on the Israeli settlements in the OPT. First the mandate of the FFM on the settlements never included the Golan Heights and the report does not refer to them. The factual situation in each of the areas is completely different and cannot be compared. But mostly, cynically encompassing the two together might have a negative impact on the future peace process between the state of Israel and the Palestinian authorities.