



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

Human Rights Council 28th Session

Agenda Item 7 – General Debate

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

Representative delivering the statement: Ms. Suzanne Wolfe Martin

Thank you Mr. President,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists is surprised. After many years as a NGO with consultative status in this Council, we did not think this could be possible, but today's discussion surprised us. This Council chose to discuss seven different reports concerning the same issue. As stated by us earlier today, we find this phenomenon absurd, irrational and counterproductive. It is our opinion that the existence of so many mandate-holders, resolutions and reports is useless and unjustifiable. It serves a hidden agenda that has little to do with the protection of human rights, ensuring accountability and promoting a viable solution to the situation.

The content the different reports presented today before this Council confirms our perception that the existence of numerous mandate holders and reports do not serve the purpose of this Council or its mandate. Some do not have any added value, nor do they contribute to the discussion. The vast majority of the reports presented here today do not address all human rights violations in the area, committed by all actors.

Believing that cooperation with this Council and its mechanisms is essential, we have contributed to its work in the past, including to the work performed under this Item. Nonetheless, so far, we witnessed one-sided outcomes, singling out only one party to a long conflict. For example, the mandate of the CoI on Gaza temporarily starts only on June 13th, although the kidnapping of the three Israeli teenagers by Hamas occurred on June 12th; the report submitted by the FFM on the settlements failed to address any improvements made by Israel, and any judicial guarantees that do exist for Palestinians. We ask: what is the point of cooperating with this Council if these contributions are disregarded? What is the point in appointing so many mandate holders if eventually their reports have no added value? We can only hope that the postponement of the CoI on Gaza report will yield a balanced report.