



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

**Human Rights Council 22<sup>nd</sup> Session, 19 March 2013**

**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,

We are recently witnessing the ongoing use of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" in some Arab and Muslim countries, with the aim of demonizing Jews and inciting against the State of Israel. It is a well-established fact that this is a fraudulent document that has been proclaimed as such by well known historians, authors and journalists, the courts of law in various countries and even the Senate of the United States which, on record, called the Protocols "a fabricated 'historic' document, a vicious hoax, that continues to be circulated by the unscrupulous and accepted by the unthinking." Nonetheless, these Protocols remain a legitimate academic source these states, some of which are members of this Council. The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists is repulsed by the ongoing use of this antisemitic propaganda, which has no other purpose but to promote hate. Endorsing these false Protocols, using them to educate young minds, undermines the well being of people in the Middle East and promotes conflict in the area. How can a dialogue exist if one party incites against and denies the very existence of the other party?

Sadly, the shameful use of these false Protocols is only one example of antisemitism; recently we witnessed Turkey's Prime Minister, Mr. Erdogan, expressing his view that "Zionism is a crime against humanity" and comparing Zionism to antisemitism, Fascism and Islamophobia. We ask Mr. Erdogan – does Zionism, which expresses the well-accepted and recognized right of the Jewish people to a home, a right recognized by the UN, incite to the murder of others? We abhor the cynical use of Zionism as justification for or validation of violations or racial and discriminatory behavior. Indeed, the UN Secretary General and other states have condemned Mr. Erdogan's statement. However, we believe that this statement should not be regarded in a void, but in its context: ongoing defamation of the Jewish people by state members of the UN and this Council. The Council should condemn unequivocally this hateful antisemitic statement.

Thus, we call upon the Council and its member states to ensure that these type of statements are not heard again within the UN. We call upon the *Special Rapportuer on Racism* to investigate and review this phenomenon, *inter alia* by conducting country visits, meetings with concerned parties and receiving submissions from NGO and civil societies.