



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

## Human Rights Council 23<sup>rd</sup> Session

### 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,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists wishes to take advantage of its statement by addressing a few closely related issues: Holocaust denial, antisemitism and incitement to genocide. We are deeply concerned by the increasing number of antisemitic incidents occurring around the world. The report published by the US State Department reveals that there was a sharp rise of antisemitism globally in 2012. This phenomenon takes both verbal and physical forms; while the latter is usually quickly countered, the former is more insidious.

During the Council's last session in March, we warned of the reappearance of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* in the educational systems of several countries. We emphasized the falsity of this document, as determined by various courts and scholars around the world. Yet in Greece, for example, neo-Nazi political parties have referred to these *Protocols* in their public speeches.

Absurdly, while certain countries continue to falsify history in their education systems, other countries encounter problems teaching well-known established facts in the name of sensitivity and pluralism. We are disturbed that the topic of the Holocaust is considered to be "emotive and controversial history" according to a report published few months ago in the UK. Refraining from teaching the Holocaust, as apparently happens in some schools, will only encourage those already denying it. Treating this topic as "controversial" implies that historically it actually is open to question. While we appreciate the fact that most schools in the UK address the topic truthfully and sensitively, we encourage the UK to ensure that *all* schools under its supervision follow the same path.

Unfortunately, words, speeches and statements are used not only to falsify history but also to ensure that it will be repeated in the future. The Holocaust is glorified by leaders of states sitting at this Council and calls are openly made for the annihilation of Israel and the Jewish people. Yet, this Council does not clearly and unequivocally condemn these views. Antisemitism, Holocaust denial and incitement to genocide should not be a Jewish concern but a global one since they are part of a larger phenomenon of hate and xenophobia. We urge the Special Rapporteur to conduct country visits with the aim of reporting on these specific issues.