



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

Human Rights Council 23rd Session

Item 9 – ID with the Special Rapporteur

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

Representative delivering the statement: Adv. Tom Gal

Thank you Mr. President,

The Special Rapporteur presented his report regarding neo-Nazis and other extremist groups. This report relates to incidents involving extremist groups, particularly in the political sphere; however, while the report mentions the existence of neo-Nazi incidents and notes that minorities have been attacked, it does not set out the details of these incidents, where they occurred or which political party, extremist movement or neo-Nazi group instigated them. Moreover, the report refrains from describing specific events or naming countries in which neo-Nazism and other forms of extremism is spreading, or indeed giving examples of good practice – countries where this phenomenon has decreased dramatically. Information on these issues is vital in two respects: first, it indicates the effectiveness of the monitoring mechanism embodied by the Special Rapporteur and provides useful and authentic examples. Second, it encourages states that have improved their compliance with different standards to continue their good work.

Since the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists contributed information to the report assembled by the Special Rapporteur, we know that the phenomenon of neo-Nazism has spread throughout Europe in recent years. We welcome the attention given to this phenomenon by the Special Rapporteur and agree with his recommendation: states should use all means available to counter neo-Nazism, whether through the media, the Internet, education, legislation or law enforcement. However, in our opinion the current report should go further by encouraging states to legislate a policy of “zero-tolerance” toward expressions of neo-Nazism and racism. It should be clear to political parties as well as to individuals involved in the political sphere that any display of a neo-Nazi nature will be countered. Freedom of expression cannot serve those who wish to eliminate, annihilate and destroy others by reason of their race, religion, nationality or ethnicity. Human rights cannot serve as a vehicle for hate.

Therefore, we encourage the Special Rapporteur to continue to monitor the phenomenon of neo-Nazism while ensuring that all available measures are adopted to counter this phenomenon for the safety of minority groups.