



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

Human Rights Council 28th Session

Agenda Item 9 – General Debate ?

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

Representative delivering the statement: Ms. Suzanne Wolfe Martin

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists expresses its deep concern regarding the increase of anti-Semitic incidents in Europe. Recent events in Paris, Copenhagen and a few days ago in London reveal how fragile is the security of Jews and Jewish institutions. On the floor of this Council, we have voiced alarm many times over the escalation and aggravation of racism and anti-Semitism in Europe. It is worrisome that only 70 years after the Holocaust, Jews fear for their lives and are isolated and targeted in Europe.

Following the horrendous attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions, we witnessed the condemnation of these attacks by state leaders and officials. While commending these swift and unequivocal condemnations, we believe it is not enough. In order to prevent future racism and anti-Semitic incidents, states must concentrate their effort and engage in education and preventive legislation. We strongly believe that such legislation should define anti-Semitism as an offence entailing criminal liability. It is our opinion that freedom of expression cannot and should not be abused to protect anti-Semitic incitement.

Anti-Semitism, racism against Jews, “Jew-hating” is not a “Jewish problem” – it is a universal problem. Today, it may be Jews who are the target, but tomorrow, as has happened in the past, and is already happening now in different parts of the world, this hate will be directed toward other minorities as well. Consequently, we urge this Council and the Special Rapporteur on racism to consider this situation to be a matter of grave concern, to monitor it closely and to report to this Council. As anti-Semitism is a unique and worrisome phenomenon, we urge that a yearly report on manifestations of anti-Semitism and measures to prevent and punish them should be submitted to this Council. We expect that such future reports will include not only the positive and negative practices of states in relation to anti-Semitism, but also will suggest effective mechanisms and possible frameworks for cooperation in order to implement any recommendations the Special Rapporteur? shall deem necessary.