



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

Mr. Michael Møller  
Director-General  
United Nations Office in Geneva  
Geneva, Switzerland

May 5, 2014

Subject: The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People  
United Nations Roundtable on the Legal Aspects of the Question of Palestine  
Convened at the UN Office in Geneva, 24-25 April 2014

Dear Mr. Møller:

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, a UN-accredited NGO with ECOSOC status, would like to address the above-referenced matter:

On April 24-25, 2014, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (the "Committee") convened a roundtable on the legal aspects of the question of Palestine. A review of the Committee's member's states and observers raises questions regarding its neutrality and impartiality.

Notice of this event was not brought to the attention of NGOs with ECOSOC status as no formal invitation was provided. Moreover, information on this roundtable was published as a "background release" on the Committee website only a week before the event took place, making it difficult for some NGOs wishing to attend the roundtable to do so with such a short notice.

The "background release" uploaded to the Committee website, was unclear as to whether NGO with an ECOSOC status could also register and attend the roundtable or at least parts of the conference.

On the day preceding the roundtable and on the morning thereof (23 and 24 April) our representative in Geneva tried to reach the secretariat of the UN and the Committee on several occasions by phone and e-mails to verify possible attendance of NGO representatives to all or part of the meeting. She did not receive a reply until Thursday 24 April informing her that the event is

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private, despite the background release stating that the opening and closing ceremonies will be open.

A review of the Committee's past events and the media releases that followed them, indicates that such obscurity has previously occurred. For example while the Committee website states that civil society representatives attended its April 2012 meeting held at the UN Geneva Office, it is unclear whether they did so based on invitation or open registration.

That a United Nation Committee which draws its mandate from the General Assembly creates confusion regarding its work and meetings raises concern regarding its agenda. We question the need for a closed roundtable regarding a topic public interest. At least a detailed summary or report of the event (and previous events) should have been published as is usually done by other UN bodies.

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists requests the Director-General to ensure that a report reflecting the work of the Committee, and especially the content and outcomes of the current event held in Geneva, will be published shortly by the Committee for public review

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists trusts that you will take this information into account and help insure that such practice is not repeated.

Sincerely,

Irit Kohn  
President

Copy of the letter at hand was also sent to:

- Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations