



ADDRESSED TO

09.10.2023

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Jerusalem Institute of Justice (JIJ) in consultative status, an Israeli legal and research institute advocating for human rights in Israel and the Middle East.

We call upon the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) to fulfill its responsibility of promoting and protecting human rights by condemning the horrific acts of terrorism perpetrated by the terrorist Palestinian organization Hamas against the Israeli population.

While we appreciate today's act of solidarity of standing in silence in memory of those who were brutally murdered, the scale of this past days' atrocities demands further action.

As outlined in General Assembly Resolution 60/251, the Human Rights Council has the mandate and responsibility to promote and protect human rights worldwide. The inhuman actions carried out by Hamas, including the kidnapping of innocent civilians and infiltrations into Israeli territory to perpetrate acts of terror via land, sea and air, should have already garnered the immediate attention and condemnation of this Council.

The information regarding the ongoing conflict is both stark and undeniable. It has resulted in the loss of over 1,000 innocent lives and the kidnapping of more than 150 Israelis and foreign nationals, including women, children, and elderly people who were abducted violently from their homes. Additionally, more than 2,500 individuals have been injured. Furthermore, it is worth noting that more than 5,000 rockets have been launched towards Israeli citizens.

Evidence is also emerging of a pattern of gross human rights violations including torture, dismemberment, beheadings, the use of rape as a weapon of war, and the desecration of victims' dead bodies. This only serves to demonstrate the terrorist groups' genocidal intentions to continue perpetrating mass atrocities on Israeli civilians, while recklessly endangering Palestinian civilians.

There can be no excuse for the silence of this Council in the face of such atrocities, which constitutes the most destructive pogrom against Jewish people since the Holocaust.



We implore this Council to take this opportunity to fulfill its mandate and stand on the right side of history concerning human rights. As the world is watching, we expect this Council to rise above past biases and act in accordance with its stated principles.

The pursuit of peace and the protection of human rights should always transcend political considerations, and it is our sincere belief that the Council can play a crucial role in promoting justice and safeguarding the rights of all individuals affected by this conflict.

We urge the United Nations Human Rights Council to take immediate and meaningful action to address the grave human rights violations taking place and to condemn, with intentional force, the horrifying acts committed by the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas. Only through such actions can the Council uphold its commitment to the principles of human rights, justice, and peace.

Sincerely,



Flavia Sevald
Chief Executive Officer



Adv. Uri Morad, Director of the International
Law & Public Diplomacy Department