



To: Dr. Alice Jill Edwards
UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other
Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Genève 10, Switzerland

Date: November 6th, 2023

Dear Ms. Edwards,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the situation in the region and, more specifically, to urgently request your intervention in safeguarding the rights and well-being of innocent individuals who have suffered from attacks, torture, rape, kidnappings, and murders at the hands of Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups.

Forensic examinations of the victims from October 7th have revealed numerous acts of torture committed by Hamas terrorists, including burning people alive, decapitations, mutilations inflicted on children and the elderly. Other atrocities by Hamas include cutting open a pregnant woman's stomach and pulling out her baby, tying up babies, and cutting off the arm of a 10-year-old girl, who tragically succumbed to severe blood loss. These actions represent a clear violation of Article 2 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention").

We greatly appreciate your statement dated October 12, 2023, in which you expressed being "shaken by the mass murder and kidnappings of civilians by Hamas in Israel." The latest reports indicate that the heinous attacks carried out by Hamas have resulted in the tragic loss of over 1,400 lives, with more than 5,300 people injured and 241 individuals held hostage in Gaza.

Notwithstanding, we are disturbed by the extremely biased statements made on the same day during the Special Procedure of the Human Rights Council. The special rapporteurs who participated in this procedure made a regrettable, unfair, and narrow-minded comparison between the inhuman attacks perpetrated by Hamas against innocent civilians and the Israeli self-defense military response to the terrorist groups in Gaza. While the attacks by Hamas clearly violate Article 2 of the Convention, the State of Israel's response to these attacks is firmly grounded in the self-defense principle established in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Equating the inhuman actions of Hamas with Israel's self-defense response is a dangerous comparison that only serves those who seek to justify the human rights violations committed by Palestinian terrorist groups during the attacks on October 7th against innocent people.



We do not know if the horrifying atrocities perpetrated by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups against the hostages have concluded, and now is the time for the United Nations to exert all efforts to halt these inhuman and degrading acts. We urge your intervention to undertake a fact-finding mission to Gaza and conduct on-site investigations into the conditions of the 241 hostages held by Hamas. We also request your assurance that Articles 5 and 16 of the Convention are not being violated.

It is imperative that, under your mandate as the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, you take active and concrete measures to provide the Human Rights Council with firsthand evidence of the atrocities committed by Hamas against innocent individuals.

Sincerely,



Flavia Sevald
Chief Executive Officer



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