

WR



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Itzhak Levanon
Permanent Representative

5th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

Before the Vote on Resolution **A/HRC/5/L.5**

20 June 2007

Mr. President,

As King Solomon said in the Book of Ecclesiastes, there is “nothing new under the sun.”

Yesterday we theoretically ushered in a new and exciting era for the protection of human rights. Today we see a one-sided resolution singling out Israel, for the 10th time within the period of one year. Delegations will be forgiven if they are confused as to whether the old rules of the Commission still apply.

Mr. President,

There is an absurdity in presenting this draft resolution when even the Special Rapporteur himself admits that the issue has been effectively dealt with and that the mission contemplated is “obsolete and impractical.” And still, the sponsors cannot let go of their Israel obsession and continue to perpetuate the follow-up resolution after follow-up resolution. It seemed obvious from the outset that the main purpose of presenting such texts was not to investigate events in the Gaza, but rather to give the Council another tool with which to bash Israel.

The cognitive dissonance between this resolution and the facts on the ground is striking. Only last week, the terrorists of Hamas used the cover of TV

insignia to attack Israeli position and a pregnant woman carrying falsified medical permits was arrested at a checkpoint on her way to carry out a suicide bombing. The resolution doesn't even begin to contemplate the shocking interfactional Palestinian violence in Gaza, which has killed 600 people—including two U.N. workers, features executions in the street and spawned gunbattles in hospitals and schools.

Nor does the resolution take into account that the Israeli High Court of Justice has ordered just this morning that Israeli authorities are to immediately administer medical treatment to all the Palestinians waiting at border crossings, fleeing from the Hamas-sponsored violence in Gaza.

Aside from the silence of Council members about these events, I equally am certain that such cases will not be included in any future reports of the Special Rapporteur for human rights in the Territories, as he is not mandated to do so.

Additional resolutions such as the one on the table will not improve the situation in the Middle East, will propagate a one-sided distorted picture and will have negative consequences for the cause of peace.

Vote Against It.