



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 AMBASSADOR ITZHAK LEVANON
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Before the First Session of the Human Rights Council
On the draft decision on the Human Rights Situation in
Palestine

Geneva, 30 June 2006

Mr. Chairman,

It is unfortunate that a specific group of countries is trying to hijack the Council by deviating attention from serious human rights matters of concern. The text before us is imbalanced, intentionally one-sided and runs contrary to the spirit of UNGA resolution 60/251.

If this Council seeks to follow the discredited footsteps of the Commission, to encourage contention and selectivity rather than tolerance and objectivity, to lend itself to become a mere instrument of Israel bashing, politicized and subverted to propaganda - then it is clearly walking in that trail.

THAT a fundamentalist terrorist organization has grabbed control of the Palestinian Authority **is a well-known fact.**

THAT by its own admission and Covenant, this terrorist group calls for the destruction of the State of Israel, failing to recognize it's most basic right to exist, **is also beyond dispute.**

THAT this ruthless terrorist group has taken its own people HOSTAGE in a campaign of indiscriminate terrorism **is plainly evident;** let alone the taking of Israeli hostages, one of whom has already been murdered.

THAT this terrorist entity indiscriminately shells Israeli cities with Kassam rockets, targeting children and civilians, **has become a** daily spectacle on your TV sets, and a sad reality for Israelis to live by.

THAT the modus operandi of this terrorist entity has been to hide behind its own civilians, abusing them as HUMAN SHIELDS - **is clearly a** crime of war and a crime against humanity **which speaks volumes of the nature of this threat and the nature of its perpetrators.**

THAT NONE of the Countries seated in this Hall would have let its own civilians be subject to such DAILY, clear and imminent threats – is beyond any doubt.

ALL OF THESE ARE UNDISPUTED FACTS, but in this hall, apparently there are delegations **who would like us to believe that** there are no suicide bombs constantly exploding in crowded streets in the heart of Israeli cities, killing innocent civilians and leaving many others wounded.

They would like us to believe that by avoiding to face the reality, they will gain some sympathy, that by accumulating wholesale resolutions, they will somehow alleviate the hardship of the Palestinians. Altogether, **they would like us to**

believe that in this tragic conflict, there is one side that has the monopoly on the status of victims.

Only the facts set into their way. Apparently at this forum, this presents no obstacle.) Voting in favor of this draft resolution will lead you directly to the old infamous habits of the Commission. Voting "yes" essentially means ~~that no lessons have been drawn~~. It means that there is no fresh ^{and} beginning. I urge you to reject this resolution.

x Secretary General Kofi Annan in a press conference on 25.6.2000 said: "The reason for reform of the HRC Commission is to move away from one of the great faults that we have all criticized, when it comes to selectivity and politicization. I hope we are not going to see a situation where the HRC focuses on Israel, the record of its - but not on the others".