



General Assembly

Distr.: General
XX August 2026

English only

Human Rights Council

Sixty-third session

7 September–9 October 2026

Agenda item 7

Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Written statement submitted by European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Européen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 August 2026]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

Requesting That The HRC Address The Uncontrolled Bias Against The State Of Israel At The United Nations

1. INTRODUCTION

For decades the State of Israel has been the object of baseless criticism and bias at the United Nations, including at the Human Rights Council (HRC), General Assembly (GA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OCHA-OTP), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), as well as the office of the Secretary-General. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), in its capacity as a Special Consultative Status holder with the ECOSOC, submits this report to highlight the ongoing bias against Israel at the United Nations.

2. BACKGROUND

The UN's serious bias against Israel is clear from the sheer number of HRC's and the GA's resolutions, as well as in Special Rapporteur reports and statements that lack any basis in law. Even the so-called "Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel" (COI), which was created to investigate "all"(1) human rights violations, primarily condemns Israel and gives a pass to terrorist organizations. And at UNRWA, anti-Israel sentiment takes the form of actual attacks on Israel by UNRWA employees. It is obvious that the UN continues to unjustly target Israel while ignoring other, real international criminal nations.

3. VIOLATIONS

The UN has a history of adopting resolutions that disproportionately condemn Israel. For example, from 2006 through the present, the GA adopted 187 resolutions condemning Israel, while Iran has been condemned only eleven times, despite its well-known and systematic violations of human rights.(2) North Korea, which brutally suppresses dissent and enslaves its people, also received a mere eleven condemnations, while China, Cuba, Libya, Pakistan, and Venezuela have all yet to be condemned.(3) The clear bias against Israel is obvious and unjustifiable.

During that same time period, the HRC passed 116 resolutions condemning Israel,(4) while criminal regimes like Cuba and China have warranted no condemnation. Under notorious dictator Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela has earned four condemnations, and Iran's theocratic regime garnered eighteen.(5) The HRC's mission focuses on "universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity," but it repeatedly condemns Israel while welcoming notorious human rights violators such as China, Cuba, Iraq, India, Pakistan, and Vietnam as committee member-states.(6) The HRC's bias against Israel is not limited to its resolutions. Israel is the only State with a standing Agenda Item.(7) While all other agenda items cover general themes, Agenda Item 7 is State specific and singles out Israel.(8)

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's bias against Israel is also undeniable. He recently took a trip to the troubled nation of Syria, and instead of addressing its human rights failures, he took the opportunity to condemn Israel, while praising Syria and pledging to support Syria's political rebuilding efforts and protecting its sovereignty,(9) declaring Israel's "violation" of Syrian territorial integrity as "intolerable." The Secretary-General was making statements that ignore the facts. Facts like the recent operations by Israel in Syria were to protect Druze communities under attack,(10) and Israel was responding to a legitimate security threat after the Syrian regime collapsed.(11)

Additionally, the most recent COI report falsely accused Israel of deliberately targeting Palestinian children.(12) This COI report is extremely misleading because it fails to include numerous well-documented steps taken by Israel to minimize civilian harm. Only thirteen pages out of the ninety-four-page Report focus on the alleged examples of deliberate targeting of children. The rest of the Report simply pads the page count with the COI's

previous reports which wrongly accuse Israel of sexual and reproductive violence and attacks on civilian buildings—which the COI fails to connect to its false reporting on the deliberate targeting of children.

For example, in paragraph 214, under the heading “Impact of displacement and siege on children’s conditions of life in Gaza,” the COI reuses claims from its previous report that “girls and women” are “forced” to wear veils by the male members of their family.⁽¹³⁾ How the wearing of veils amounts to sexual and reproductive violence or a deliberate attack on children is unclear. Moreover, it is Palestinian men, not Israeli soldiers, who force Palestinian women to wear veils.⁽¹⁴⁾

Even the secondary effects (on children) from lack of operable schools in an active warzone are framed by the COI as deliberate targeting of children.⁽¹⁵⁾ Additionally, attacks on hospitals used by Hamas (used in the previous report on sexual and reproductive violence because the hospitals had maternity wards) are now included in the Report on deliberate targeting of children.⁽¹⁶⁾ This also ignores the well-documented fact that many hospitals and schools were shelters for Hamas terrorists.⁽¹⁷⁾ In response to Hamas’s unlawful actions, the COI simply states that it “could not independently verify this allegation.”⁽¹⁸⁾

OCHA-OPT, which also reports to the UN on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, operates in the same biased manner.⁽¹⁹⁾ It simply ignores Hamas’s unlawful use of civilian infrastructure. After October 7, 2023, when Israel found Hamas operations under UNRWA’s headquarters in Gaza, OCHA-OPT did not report it as a violation of international humanitarian law.⁽²⁰⁾ While OCHA-OPT has labeled Israeli early attack warnings to civilians in Gaza as against “the rules of war and basic humanity,” it has supported similar warnings in other conflicts as “desperate measures in desperate times.”⁽²¹⁾ The 2018 mass evacuation in Syria is but one example.⁽²²⁾ Additionally, in 2021, OCHA-OPT’s head was dismissed from her position for criticizing indiscriminate rocket attacks from Gaza against Israeli civilians, as although that represented the truth, it did not fall in line with the U.N.’s anti-Israel rhetoric.⁽²³⁾

UNRWA’s deplorable actions are even worse, as its own employees participated in the October 7 attacks on Israel.⁽²⁴⁾ After October 7, Israel declassified information that revealed that out of 12,521 UNRWA workers in Gaza, 1,462 were members of Hamas and other terrorist organizations. They dug tunnels under UNRWA schools, while two of the schools’ principals were confirmed Hamas members.⁽²⁵⁾ Therefore, it is not a shock that Hamas has used UNRWA schools to store weapons.⁽²⁶⁾ This bias is serious, well documented, and undeniable.

4. REQUEST

Above contains just a small sampling from the plethora of evidence available showing the contempt Israel faces at the UN. It is clear from the biased, unfounded, and inaccurate accusations from the COI and other UN bodies that Israel faces a different kind of enemy—an international organization that should be supporting it—while it fights against terrorist organizations for its very survival.

We urge the HRC to take an honest look at its own work and the work of its sister organs at the UN to ensure these issues are addressed. The UN’s purpose is to “maintain international peace and security . . . in conformity with the principles of justice and international law.”⁽²⁷⁾ Dishonest reporting and disproportional condemnation of one State—a State that endeavors to do its best to uphold international law—is not justice. We respectfully request the HRC to take steps toward addressing and correcting this unfair bias against Israel.

- (1) The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and Israel, OHCHR, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-israel/index>.
- (2) UN Watch Database: Is the UN Living Up to its Founding Principles?, UN WATCH, <https://unwatch.org/database/> (last updated Apr. 30, 2026); Iran: Human Rights Situation Spirals Deeper into Crisis, HUM. RTS. WATCH (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/02/04/iran-human-rights-situation-spirals-deeper-into-crisis>.
- (3) Id.
- (4) Id.
- (5) Id.
- (6) Id.
- (7) UN WATCH., ITEM 7: THE UNHRC'S STANDING AGENDA ITEM TARGETING ISRAEL 1 (2026), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Item-7-Issue-Brief.pdf>.
- (8) Id.
- (9) UN Chief Hails Syria's "Moment of Possibility" on First Visit Since Fall of Assad Regime, UN (July 25, 2026), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/07/1168027>.
- (10) Israel Says It Hit Syrian Government Targets After Attacks on Druze Civilians, REUTERS (Mar. 20, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/world/israeli-military-says-it-struck-syrian-government-targets-after-attacks-druze-2026-03-20/>.
- (11) What Is the Golan Heights and What Does It Mean to Israel and Syria?, ABC AUS. (Dec. 11, 2024), <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-12/what-is-the-golan-heights-and-why-does-it-matter-to-israel-syria/104711300>.
- (12) Indep. Int'l Comm'n of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, 'The Essence of Childhood Has Been Destroyed': Israel's Deliberate Targeting of Palestinian Children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory Since 7 October 2023, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/62/CRP.2, ¶ 140 (2026) [hereinafter "Report" or "The Report"].
- (13) Id. ¶ 214.
- (14) Id. (citing Sexual, Reproductive and Other Forms of Violence Report ¶ 145)
- (15) Id., § IV.H.
- (16) Id. ¶ 290.
- (17) Tom McArthur, Israel Strike on Gaza School-Turned-Shelter Kills 17, Hospital Says, BBC, (Oct. 24, 2024), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce3y1r24992o>; Israeli Military Says Hamas Hiding Tunnels, Operations Centres in Gaza Hospital, REUTERS, (Oct. 27, 2023), <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-military-says-hamas-hiding-tunnels-operations-centres-gaza-hospital-2023-10-27/>; @manniefabian, X (Aug. 3, 2024, 2:20 PM), <https://x.com/manniefabian/status/1819740011996041719?lang=en>.
- (18) Report, supra note 12, ¶ 140.
- (19) UN Agencies Bias Uncovered, EMBASSY OF ISR. MANILLA, https://embassies.gov.il/philippines/en/news/un-bias-against-israel?utm_source=copilot.com (last updated Sept. 17, 2024).
- (20) OCHA: Overview of Mandate Violations and Double Standards Concerning Israel, GOV.IL <https://govextra.gov.il/mda/ocha/ocha/> (last visited Aug. 6, 2026).
- (21) Id.
- (22) Id.
- (23) Id.
- (24) The Connection Between UNRWA and Hamas in Gaza, GOV.IL, <https://govextra.gov.il/unrwa/unrwa/> (last visited Aug. 8, 2026).
- (25) Id.
- (26) Id.
- (27) U.N. Charter art. 1 § 1.