



Human Rights Council 53rd Session

Agenda Item 2 – (June 2023)

Joint Statement by The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, the World Jewish Congress, and European Union of Jewish Students

Representative delivering the statement: Brenda Nanyunja.

Mr. President,

This is a joint statement on behalf of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, the World Jewish Congress, and the European Union of Jewish Students.

The Report of Commission of Inquiry demonstrates its imbalance and even prejudice towards the State of Israel. In its report, the Commission of Inquiry highlights serious concerns for violations of human rights by the Israeli authorities, the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and the Hamas de-facto authorities in the Gaza Strip.

There are several human rights violations that are taking place in Israel, and it is important that such violations will be subject to scrutiny. However, in its findings that there are “reasonable grounds to conclude” that violations have been taking place by Israel, the Committee seems to jump to conclusions based on partial information.

Mr. High Commissioner, we urge you to protect the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism against any form of misuse. This is an internationally recognized working definition, and rejecting it only enables antisemitism in the disguise of criticism against the Israeli authorities.

Israel democracy is celebrated these days by human rights champions who are protesting the mere attempt to harm its democratic values. Israel's democratic values must be recognized as such. We call the Commission of Inquiry to recognize and uphold Israel's commitment to inclusivity, freedom of expression, and human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.