Israel Rejects The Outrageous Accusations Made By The Pillay COI

October 11, 2024

Israel Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

<https://x.com/IsraelinGeneva/status/1844676005941608911>

Israel firmly rejects the outrageous accusations laid down in the latest report of the infamous Pillay Commission of Inquiry.

This latest report is another blatant attempt by the CoI to delegitimize the very existence of the State of Israel and obstruct its right to protect its population, while covering up the crimes of terrorist organizations who not only seek Israel’s destruction - but have openly demonstrated these intentions for the world to see.

This report shamelessly portrays Israel’s operations in terror-infested health facilities in Gaza as a matter of policy against Gaza’s health system, while entirely dismissing overwhelming evidence\* that medical facilities in Gaza have been systematically used by Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad for terrorist activities. Hamas’ use of medical facilities to conceal its operatives, to store its arsenal, to conduct attacks, to hide hostages, and to connect the sites of its terrorist activity through tunnels is clear as day. The evidence is overwhelming, yet, the CoI chooses once again to turn a blind eye to Hamas’ strategy of abusing civilian infrastructure and using the Palestinian population as human shields.

Israel rejects the accusations of widespread ill-treatment and torture of detainees. Israel is fully committed to international legal standards regarding the treatment of detainees. This includes prohibition of excessive use of force and ill-treatment. Comprehensive oversight and review mechanisms, to which every relevant State authority is subject, are examples of such commitment, ensuring the prompt, thorough and meticulous investigation of every complaint. Israeli Courts, and especially the Israeli Supreme Court, Israel’s highest judicial instance, are empowered to engage in judicial review of detention conditions regarding both general practices and individual petitions.

If this were not enough, the CoI draws a nefarious parallel between Israeli hostages - children, women, the elderly - who were snatched from their homes, abused in hospitals, beaten, tortured, starved, sexually assaulted and executed in cold blood in underground terror tunnels; and persons involved in terrorist activity, with blood on their hands.

The Commission’s intent to  delegitimize Israel’s right to exist and to defend its population becomes obvious as the CoI since its establishment refers to a 75-year long occupation, which not only contradicts 3000 years of history, but also undermines UN resolution 181.

This is evidence of the CoI’s ultimate agenda. Facts and reality do not matter to the Commission. Sadly, in order to effectively address a conflict, it is fundamentally necessary to rely on facts and reality. By focusing on creating an alternate reality and investing in demonizing rhetoric, the CoI only contributes to the exacerbation of this conflict.

We call on States to speak out against this prejudiced approach, which only serves to further stain the credibility of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations at large.

ENDS

Background on the COI: This Commission was established in 2021, following hostilities initiated by indiscriminate rocket fire of Hamas onto the territory of Israel - but the resolution mandating the Commission made no mention of  Hamas terrorism. Instead, it created an everlasting mandate of unprecedented scope, unlike any other mechanism established by the Human Rights Council. This Commission is composed of three members who have either made or backed antisemitic statements and who have been appointed precisely because of their prejudices against the State of Israel.