Letter From Prime Minister Yair Lapid To Dozens Of World Leaders: Oppose The U.N. Vote On An Advisory Opinion From The International Court Of Justice

November 27, 2022

Office of the Prime Minister of Israel

Prime Minister Yair Lapid, yesterday (Monday, 28 November 2022), sent a letter to over 50 world leaders calling on them to exert their influence on the Palestinian Authority in order to prevent the General Assembly vote on an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Letter:  
Your Excellency,

The past few years have been years of great progress in the Middle East: from the Abraham Accords which changed the landscape of the entire region, to the historic Negev Summit, and more recently, the groundbreaking gas deal between Israel and Lebanon. This path of peace that we’re on is already improving the lives of Israelis and our Arab neighbors alike, promoting prosperity for our peoples and building a better future for us all. All these achievements were reached through negotiations between the relevant parties — the only proven way to attain lasting peace in our region. I am writing to you today to ensure we keep moving forward and building on this progress, rather than move backwards.

The Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a draft resolution in which the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is asked to render an advisory opinion concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Almost half of the UN’s member states refused to support this draft resolution, sending a clear message of disapproval. However, numerous attempts by several states to dissuade the Palestinian Authority from going down this harmful path have been rejected.

This resolution is the outcome of a concerted effort to single out Israel, to discredit our legitimate security concerns, and to delegitimize our very existence. At the heart of this biased campaign is the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and its Commission of Inquiry (COI) against Israel. On numerous occasions, the members of these bodies have made clear their deeply-held bias, bigotry and racism against Israel and the Jewish people. The continued employment of these members isn’t only moral hypocrisy, it is in direct contravention to the core principles of the United Nations.

Since taking office, my government has promoted high-level contacts with the Palestinian Authority and has undertaken numerous confidence-building measures on the ground to promote the prosperity and well-being of the Palestinians. In my speech before the General Assembly last September, I clearly laid out Israel’s desire to promote a just and lasting peace with the Palestinians.

It has long been accepted that the status of disputed territory will be subject to direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. A one-sided change to such a policy will have detrimental effects on the entire region. Bringing the matter before the ICJ expressly contravenes the principle of direct negotiations accepted by Israel, the Palestinians and the international community, and will only play into the hands of extremists, further polarize the parties, and undermine the positive work that has been done over the past few years.

I urge your country to exercise your influence on the Palestinian Authority so that they refrain from promoting this dangerous move at the General Assembly. If the Palestinians continue to ignore these requests and this resolution is brought to a vote in December, I hope and expect that your country will vote against it and voice your clear concerns regarding its dangerous ramifications. At times like this, we look to our friends to stand with us.

As we are approaching the start of a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your country a Happy New Year. May 2023 be a year of prosperity and stability for (NAME OF COUNTRY).

Sincerely,

Yair Lapid  
Prime Minister of Israel