**Anatomy of a Hanging**

September 19, 2014

By Editorials

New York Daily News

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/editorial-anatomy-hanging-article-1.1944968

The show trial is underway and the guilty verdict is guaranteed, as a United Nations panel makes a pretense of investigating human rights violations in the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas.

To his severe discredit, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has sanctioned a proceeding whose transparent rigging would be at home in a totalitarian regime. Israel is, of course, the defendant going down the tubes.

Hamas started the conflict by firing thousands of rockets indiscriminately into the Jewish state from heavily populated areas of Gaza, and prolonged the suffering by violating ceasefire after ceasefire that Israel honored.

While each Hamas rocket was a war crime, too much of the world attacked Israel for retaliating in self-defense. Among those in that camp is the UN Human Rights Council, a body dominated by Israel’s foes that has focused incessantly on Israel while turning a blind eye to abuses by the world’s worst regimes.

With the end of hostilities, the Council empaneled a commission “to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law” during the war. But it dispatched the panel with marching orders to convict Israel.

Condemning the Jewish state 18 times, the authorizing resolution never once mentions Hamas. Most specifically, the document “Condemns in the strongest terms the widespread, systematic and gross violations of international human rights and fundamental freedoms arising from the Israeli military operations.”

While breezing past “violence against civilians wherever it occurs,” never pointing to Palestinian terrorists, the resolution held Israel guilty of “hate crimes.” That the Hamas charter calls for annihilating Israel went unmentioned.

To ensure the desired result, the Council named rabid anti-Israel international law professor William Schabas to chair the investigation.

Well before the war, Schabas declared that that his “favorite person to bring to the International Criminal Court would be Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.” He also once questioned why ICC was prosecuting the president of Sudan for genocide but not Israeli President Shimon Peres. For good measure, Schabas lightly described former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who frequently called for wiping Israel off the map, as just a “provocative politician.”

Schabas is ideally suited as a hanging judge for the 29 countries that backed the resolution. Led by Pakistan, those included five Arab states, China, Cuba, Russia, Venezuela and Vietnam.

Though not having seats on the Council, North Korea, Sudan and Iran attacked Israel before the vote and spoke strongly in favor of the resolution.

The U.S. cast the only no vote while 17 countries abstained. Disgracefully, they included nine European nations, South Korea and Japan.

The lynching is stain on the UN and a blot on Ban’s record.