



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Itzhak Levanon
Permanent Representative

6th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

Agenda Item #7
Follow-up to Resolution S-1 and S-3

20 September 2007

Mr. President,

The resolution filed on this subject is symptomatic of a malady which appears to afflict the new Council: an incurable obsession with Israel.

The Special Rapporteur himself, Professor Dugard, who will visit Israel next week in the course of his regular duties, admits that this issue has been already dealt with and that this mission is obsolete. Still the OIC and the Arab group insist on further derailing the work of the council by introducing a resolution which contradicts the Special Rapporteur's own conclusion.

The sponsors then continue to defy practical wisdom by insisting that a mission be undertaken by the Most Reverend Tutu when they know perfectly well that the Reverend Tutu has advised the Presidency he cannot fulfill such mission now for personal reasons.

The dichotomy between these realities and the incomprehensible obstination by the sponsors is blatantly evident.

It seems those who stand behind this resolution do not really care about what happened on the ground and their only desire is to continue with their unending odyssey of bashing a single UN Member State.

Its sponsors insist on investigating incidents which have already been investigated while resolutely disregarding the reality on the ground such as the ongoing violations of human rights in Gaza by the Palestinians. These include the arbitrary killings and summary executions which have been well documented by the UN itself. The fact that such brazen acts pass deliberately unnoticed raises serious questions about the intentions of the sponsors. Clearly, those standing so vehemently behind this resolution hardly care about what happened on the ground. Rather, their main intension is to deflect attention from the terrible human rights records of their own countries.

The Council would be better served by focusing its attention on truly urgent issues rather than resuscitating old obsessions.

Thank you.