Note: This submission in itself should not be understood as an endorsement of the "Commission of Inquiry," including its mandate.

Submission: January 24, 2022

Name: Ruth Rifka

Organization: A  private citizen of Canada

Personal Information: Retired optician, artist.

Biography: I am a lifelong grassroots activist against racial injustice and misinformation, and an advocate for truth and peaceful dialogue.

I wish to address

* *"Facts and circumstances regarding alleged violations of international humanitarian law and alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021;"*

These are the plain facts which can be backed up by research:––

 1.  Hamas, which controls Gaza, openly advocates in its charter, the genocide of Jews and Israel.  Both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, deny the reality of the Holocaust,  and incite for the genocidal destruction of Israel, paying huge sums for killing and murdering Israelis. This is openly known as  “PAY FOR SLAY”.

  2.  Since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, and Gazan destruction of the greenhouses that were left for Gazans’ benefit, Hamas has initiated every attack. Hamas fired 4,300 missiles into Israel, during a war they initiated and conducted from private residences and apartments where they stored their rockets.

  3.   Hamas has built terror tunnels to transport terrorists and abduct Israelis.

  4.  By sending incendiary balloons  over the fence, and burning thousands of acres of farms and parks, and burning tires, Hamas has desecrated the environment.

   5.  Hamas does not allow freedom of speech to journalists or Gazans, indeed Hamas executes or jails dissidents.

   6.  Hamas has not directed UN funds to improve the life of Gazans.

   7.  It should be obvious that Israel has a right to defend its cities and towns. Despite Hamas initiating retaliation, the IDF tries to avoid killing Palestinians by advance warning of retaliatory attacks and practising international humanitarian law. Arabic is an official language in Israel, and there is freedom of religion which is not so in Gaza.

   8.  Choosing the date of April 13, 2021, alluding to  the beginning of Ramadan of that year when many radical Arabs rioted on the Temple Mount seems an attempt to distract from the  fact that Hamas fired 4,300 missiles  into a civilian population. This was a true crime against humanity.

  9.  Hamas and the Palestinian Authority refuse to accept  minuscule Israel which occupies less than 1% of the Middle East as a Jewish State.

  10.  In this inquiry it should be crucial that abuses and violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that are being committed by the leadership of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas  be recognized and addressed.