**To the UN Secretariat and the UN Human Rights Council**

**Submission to the Commission of Inquiry initiated by the UN Human Rights Council concerning the May 2021 conflict between Israel and Hamas**

This submission refers to the following topic:

*“Underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict in and between the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel; as well as systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial or religious identity;”*

I am an EU citizen. The submission below expresses my views and those of my friends and relatives. We have decided to address you because we think a permanent Commission of Inquiry created just for the Jewish State serves the unique purpose of condemning Israel, a country which in the eyes of the UN is guilty by definition and by tradition.

In the same chapter Constantin Schreiber discusses a Palestinian Arabic schoolbook whose texts “are very political” (page 182). According to Schreiber this is unusual for a schoolbook that is supposed to teach formal literary Arabic “mostly on the basis of classical stories and literary texts” (page 182). He discusses one of the stories with the German-Israeli psychologist and author Ahmad Mansour, [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad\_Mansour\_(Autor)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad_Mansour_%28Autor%29)

whose work focuses primarily on young people’s radicalization. Ahmad Mansour points out that a text which emphasizes Arab victimhood triggered by the conflict with Israel prevents Palestinian students from accepting their Israeli neighbors. Those who read such texts in school, Mansour says, “are unlikely to get involved in a peace process with Israel later on.” (page 186)

Ahmad Mansour was born in Israel, attended an Arab school there, studied at Tel-Aviv University and later emigrated to Germany. He is familiar with the complex relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel. This prompted him recently to write a comment to the Amnesty apartheid debate in a German mainstream newspaper. There he wrote among other things:

“Despite all the negative aspects, there will hardly be any Arab Israelis willing to live in an Arab state. Because democratic, constitutional conditions and prosperity like in Israel - you won't find that anywhere else in the Middle East.” Feb 15, 2022

<https://www.welt.de/debatte/plus236916935/Apartheid-Vorwurf-Fragen-wir-doch-mal-die-arabischen-Israelis.html>

In order to find, as your topic states, the “Underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict […]” one must look into how the young Palestinians are being taught to think about this conflict and about their Jewish neighbors.

The centrality in Palestinian education of alleged Arab victimhood and allegedly wicked and vicious Jews is not a good prerequisite for accepting compromise and trying to walk the road of peace.

A group like Hamas, who does not recognize Israel and is trying to bomb it out of existence, has inflicted unspeakable suffering upon the Palestinians it controls and should no longer rule in Gaza. As long as Hamas is in power the young people in Gaza will be educated to hate and fight their Jewish neighbors. In the words of Jonathan Schanzer <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Schanzer> in his book Gaza Conflict 2021: Hamas, Israel and Eleven Days of War, Foundation for Defense of Democracies Press (November 10, 2021) [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISBN_%28identifier%29) [978-1956450019](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/978-1956450019) :

“Hamas exists to fight Israel. The group’s patrons provide funds and other assistance for exactly that reason. War will unfortunately come again.”

 (page 262)

Israel made several peace offers to the Palestinians during the past decades. It is time to educate the young Palestinians to recognize the State of Israel and accept their Jewish neighbors, so that Jews and Arabs can explore together new paths to a lasting peace.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Best regards

Tamara Adler