**Submission to the antisemitic and anti-Israel UN Human Rights Council's COI**

I am writing this email in response to the “call for submissions” by the UN’s Human Rights Council’s Commission of Inquiry (“COI”), and specifically with respect to the “underlying root causes of recurrent tensions ….”  I want to emphasize at the outset, that this email should not be taken as an endorsement of the legitimacy of the Commission of Inquiry. On the contrary, as will be discussed below, the resolution establishing the COI in May 2021, the formation of the COI and its so called mandate, and its composition are nothing more than the latest example of the UN ‘s clear and long standing bias against Israel, which can only be characterized as pure antisemitism. The  outcome of the COI’s so called “investigation” has clearly been predetermined, and its purpose – as intended – will certainly be to delegitimize and demonize Israel, and to subject Israel to boycotts and other sanctions, and to subject Israeli citizens to arrest and possible imprisonment.  Nevertheless, and despite the probability that this email will not be read – and will certainly not be taken seriously – by the COI, I believe that it is important to present some truths regarding the background of the conflict and the so called “root causes”.

First, some of the many facts which lead to the inescapable conclusion that the Commission of Inquiry was formed for the purpose and intent of further delegitimizing and demonizing Israel and subjecting it and its citizens to boycotts sanctions and criminal prosecution, can be summarized as follows:

The Resolution of the Human Rights Council of May 2021 which created the “ongoing independent international Commission of Inquiry” ( the COI), gave it the task of investigating “all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights laws leading up to and since April 13, 2021 in the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and all of the root causes of recurrent tensions….”. The resolution is clearly one sided, mentioning abuses “in the occupied Palestinian territory [by Israel]” with no mention of Hamas, the thousands of rockets fired by Hamas deliberately targeting Israeli citizens, using Palestinians as human shields, pay for slay etc.

The reference in the resolution to the COI as “ongoing” means that it  will exist in perpetuity, meaning that the COI will be able to revisit its bashing of Israel every year.

The language of “leading up to” and “root causes” in the resolution means that the COI has been given carte blanche to go back to 1948 and even earlier, in order to rewrite history and undermine the legitimacy of the creation of Israel.

The Resolution asks the COI to recommend “measures to be taken by third [party] states”, meaning by other countries, against those to whom the COI assigns “individual criminal and command responsibility”, meaning those who the COI finds engaged in criminal activity. Since the COI is investigating only Israel-and not Hamas or the Palestinians- this means that the COI will undoubtedly find Israel and various Israelis guilty of crimes (all because Israel was merely defending itself), and will attempt to persuade other countries to impose sanctions and imprison Israelis, in an attempt to threaten, impede and criminalize Israel’s right to self defense.

2. The budget for funding the COI “inquiry” only surfaced four months after the vote creating the inquiry was taken, so voters did not know the “inquiry’s” financial implications. The budget was posted quietly on the UN website and the inquiry for its predetermined conclusions is set to cost more than $5 million in each of 2022 and 2023, and remember that the inquiry is scheduled to last in perpetuity. There are currently seven other investigations being conducted by the human rights council and the median cost of these is $2.6 million. The cost of the COI inquiry is many multiples of that. Clearly money is no object when it comes to demonizing Israel. All of the money for the COI’s budget is to come from the UN’s regular budget, meaning that it is to be charged to every taxpayer of every UN member state every year forever.

3. The Code of Conduct for the Human Rights Council requires the members of the COI to uphold the highest standards of impartiality and even-handedness. However, the three members of the COI have a history of public bias against Israel. Chairperson Navi Pillay, among other things has accused Israel of targeting civilians and apartheid, and has advocated BDS (Boycotts Divestment and Sanctions) against Israel. One of her two deputies, Miloon Kothari of India, has accused Israel of ethnic cleansing. The second deputy, Chris Sidoti of Australia, among other things, advises the Australian Center for International Justice, which has demanded that the Australian government support BDS and the criminal prosecution of Israelis. Clearly, the results of the COI’s investigation has been predetermined.

As for the &amp;quot;root causes&amp;quot;, they are very simple. The conflict and the tension are the result of the refusal by the Arabs to tolerate the Jew having a State of their own, and in some cases (such as Iran and Hamas) their stated intention is destroying the State of Israel (“From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free”). This is reflected in among other things, The Grand Mufti’s alliance with Hitler in World War II; the Arab refusal to agree to the UN partition plan in 1947; the attack on Israel by Arab armies as soon as Israel declared itself a State; the attempt in 1967 and 1973 to drive Israel into the sea; hundreds of terrorist acts including suicide bombings and two intifadas; Hamas and Hezbollah rocket attacks targeting civilians; using Palestinians as human shields; placing weapons in or close to hospitals and schools; and the refusal to negotiate directly with Israel.

For its part Israel is merely defending itself. It  has done its best to avoid civilian casualties by among other things, avoiding bombing civilian targets, warning civilians of impending attacks and even aborting attacks on terrorists where the risk of killing civilians outweighs the benefits to be achieved by an attack.

Furthermore, the charge of apartheid is a blatant lie. Arabs vote, serve in the Knesset (currently as part of the ruling coalition), and even on the Supreme Court. Compare this to the rights of ordinary Arabs in the countries attacking Israel.
While I do not expect this to change the minds of anyone on the Commission of Inquiry, I believe that it is important for the true facts to be part of the record.

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