

### **RoR by Israel on Agenda Item 3 (General Debate)**

To The distinguished delegations, which have vehemently, chosen to criticize Israel for defending itself against terrorism and deliberate rockets attacks against its civilian population in the last 10 days, and expressed only horror and sorrow for the loss in Gaza, while ignoring the loss of life on the Israeli side, of children, men and women, we would like to mark the following points:

Hamas started attacking Israel with rockets, our cities and villages, even Tel Aviv and our capital Jerusalem, as a matter of policy choice.

Israel's population is thus under attack from a recognized terrorist organization, acknowledged to be exactly that – by many countries in the world. Israel is obliged to defend its civilians, as any other country would do in such a case. We have not heard any words of sorrow from those countries about the loss of life and injuries of dozens of Israeli civilians – hit by rockets – among them Israeli Jews and Arabs, as well as foreign nationals residing in Israel.

Hamas is committing a double war crime, firing from residential areas in Gaza, from within the civilian Gazan population, intentionally at Israeli residential areas, at our civilians. Israel, on the other hand, targets military and command installations of the terror organizations embedded in Gaza – Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Many of the countries which spoke so strongly against Israel, are fighting terrorism themselves, and they did or still do it forcefully and decisively. I do not want at this point to go back to history and bring up instances of these fights, but there are plenty.

The Palestinian people are not our enemies. This is NOT a fight of Israel versus Palestinians. Israel defends its citizens against terrorist attacks by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. We deeply regret the loss of life and the injuries among Palestinian civilians in Gaza, but the responsibility lies with Hamas, which takes the citizens of Gaza hostage and abuses them as human shields. Hamas is a deadly and genocidal enemy. Nothing attests better to its character and ideology than its 1988 charter. Please allow me a few quotes:

*Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.'* (Preamble)

*[Peace] initiatives and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement... There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility.'* (Article 13)

The anti-Semitic ideology of Hamas is clearly stated and visible for everyone. I quote:

*'The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'* (Article 7).

Israel stands firm and will stand firm against all forms of antisemitism, together with many partners worldwide.

I wish to ask every representative, whether of the countries which spoke against Israel or other countries – what would you do if a terrorist organization were attacking your civilians in cities, towns, and villages with indiscriminate rocket fire? I think the answer is obvious.

Thank you,