

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2025

António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary-General Guterres:

We write to underscore our concerns about the Human Rights Council's (HRC) overwhelming and disproportionate focus on Israel. This includes its attempt to use an upcoming vote on a resolution related to Agenda Item 2 to establish an international investigative mechanism (IIM) focused solely on Israel when it comes up for a vote in the Council in early April.

Already, Israel is the only country for which the HRC has established an entire agenda item dedicated solely to its existence, agenda item 7. Moreover, an Israel-specific IIM, if established, would be in addition to the Commission of Inquiry (COI) established by the HRC "to investigate, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021".¹ This COI received significant backlash from the United States Congress even before it was entered into force.

Since, the COI's mandate has been further egregiously expanded to include investigating and reporting on "terror, violence, and intimidation against Palestinian civilians" and any form of military support to Israel on an annual basis.

This one-sided focus on Israel undermines the legitimate and genuine threat posed by real human rights abusers. This includes the Hamas terrorists who continue to hold dozens of hostages like American Edan Alexander. It's part of a concerning and insidious anti-Israel trend within the United Nations, specifically as relates to the HRC, and appears to be little more than a bare-faced attempt to prop up other anti-Israel action at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Make no mistake, any HRC member state or UN entity that supports an Israel-specific IIM in any form will face the same consequences as the ICC faced for its blatant overreach and disregard for sovereign prerogatives.² We urge you to take all action and to unequivocally reject the establishment of this open-ended mechanism at the HRC. It is imperative that the Council act judiciously given its credibility in the eyes of the American people is quickly declining.

Sincerely,



BRIAN MAST
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee



JAMES E. RISCH
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

¹ [The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel | OHCHR](#)

² [Imposing Sanctions on the International Criminal Court – The White House](#)