



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2025

H. E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber
President of the Human Rights Council
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to strongly object to the renewal of UN Special Rapporteur for the “occupied Palestinian territories,” Francesca Albanese, for a second three-year term. As you are well aware, UN Special Rapporteurs have a duty to uphold the code of conduct as written in Council Resolution 5/2. The code of conduct expressly asserts that Special Rapporteurs must act in an independent capacity with a professional, impartial assessment, and maintain the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity through impartiality, equity and honesty.¹ Based on the following, Special Rapporteur Albanese has failed to uphold the code. Consequently, her term must not be renewed.

Ms. Albanese has repeatedly violated the code of conduct since she took the position on May 1, 2022. She has consistently aligned herself with Hamas terrorists, accused Israel of genocide, likened the Government of Israel to the “Third Reich,” and compared Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler.² Ms. Albanese unapologetically uses her position as a UN Special Rapporteur to purvey and attempt to legitimize antisemitic tropes, while serving as a Hamas apologist. Moreover, she has erroneously accused the United States Congress and our Executive of being bought and paid for by the Israel lobby.³ In her malicious fixation, she has even called for Israel to be removed from the United Nations while likening Israel to apartheid South Africa.⁴

Since the abhorrent and cowardly October 7th attacks, Ms. Albanese’s inflammatory rhetoric has only increased in atrociousness. For example, following Hamas’ murder of over 1,200 people, 250 hostages taken – 59 of whom are still held by Hamas terrorists – and irreversibly

¹ Human Rights Council Resolution 5/2, CodeOfConduct.pdf.

² Anti-Defamation League, Francesca Albanese in Her Own Words, Oct 27, 2024.

³ The Times of Israel, UN Palestinian rights official’s social media history reveals antisemitic comments, Dec 14, 2022.

⁴ Francesca Albanese Tweet, <https://x.com/FranceskaAlbs/status/1813863134236709193>.

changed the lives of countless others, Ms. Albanese wrote that the “violence must be put in context,” and that the attack occurred in response to Israeli “aggression.”⁵ In a statement that was rightfully condemned by the United States, France, and Germany, Ms. Albanese attempted to justify that the October 7th massacre was “in response to Israel’s oppression.”⁶ Such comments alone violate several provisions within the code of conduct.⁷

Regrettably, Ms. Albanese’s rhetoric has perverted the very institution and its foundational principles in which she was appointed to serve. Her comments above, and many others she has made, are case in point as to why President Trump rightfully withdrew the United States from the Human Rights Council (Council). The Council has allowed antisemitism and anti-Americanism to thrive within, with a seeming unwillingness to hold the most egregious violators of human rights to account. Notably, in January 2023, I, along with many of my colleagues, sent a letter to the United Nations Secretary General and High Commissioner for Human Rights calling for Ms. Albanese’s removal.⁸ We were not alone in our requests for her admonishment. Several governments, including France, Germany, Canada and the Netherlands, have all condemned her statements as antisemitic, as well.⁹ To this day, no action has been taken.

Francesca Albanese’s service as a UN Special Rapporteur must end at the conclusion of her first term. Given the numerous instances provided above, but certainly not limited to, her behavior is not only reprehensible, but most unbecoming of a UN Special Rapporteur. As such, it is the view of the undersigned that Ms. Albanese must face serious consequences. As the new President of the Human Rights Council, it is your sworn duty to utilize your authority as stated in Presidential Statement 8/2 (PRST/8/2) to “convey to the Council any information brought to [your] attention of concerning cases of persistent non-compliance by a mandate-holder with the provisions of Council Resolution 5/2, especially prior to the renewal of mandate holders in office.”¹⁰ By rejecting the renewal of Ms. Albanese’s term, the Council would bring much needed credibility, integrity, and accountability back to the institution – attributes of which it has been severely lacking in recent years.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Young Kim
Subcommittee Chairwoman
House Foreign Affairs Committee

⁵ Francesca Albanese Tweet, <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1710652725870874874>.

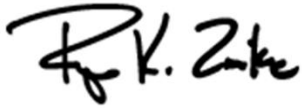
⁶ Francesca Albanese Tweet, <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1756351236909965591>.

⁷ *Supra* note 1.

⁸ Congressional Letter to UN Secretary General and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

⁹ Anti-Defamation League, Francesca Albanese in Her Own Words, Oct 27, 2024; Tweet on Netherlands opposition to Albanese’s renewal.

¹⁰ Human Rights Council Presidential Statement PRST/8/2, Report of the Human Rights Council on its 8th session.



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