

UN Watch's side events:

Ahead of the UNCHR's debate of Ms. Pillay's report, UN Watch held two sideline events in which experts testified before ambassadors and activists on the bias against Israel and blind eye that the report has when it comes to Palestinian terrorism.

I.

Colonel Richard Kemp, Former Commander of British forces in Afghanistan and counter-terrorism expert and **Lt. Col. Geoffrey Corn**, distinguished Professor of National Security Law, South Texas College of Law battled in a meeting chaired by Hillel Neuer, Director of UN Watch the injustice and false information by UN. The rockets over Jerusalem (that according to Ms. Pillay, "have their root in occupation") were encouraged by Iran that is backing Hamas. It is not a secret that Iran would like to annihilate the Jewish state and turn it to an Islamic state under Iran's influence. Same time Iran is a part of the UN system that called for the COI and nominated Ms. Pillay.

Their expertise shows that when the military is targeted, there is always only 80% accuracy. The chance of 20% civilian "collateral damage" must be taken into account in every armed conflict, otherwise there is no chance to defeat the enemy.

Considering that Gaza has the highest density of population, it must be evident that civilians were never a target when facing the very low civilian casualties caused by the IDF. On the contrary, Hamas aims for civilian targets in about 98% of their attacks, a clear violation of human rights. Hamas, on purpose, raises the chance that civilians will be hit by IDF, by planting their military facilities in midst of civilians, women and children ("soft targets"). This crime of war was never questioned by the UN or by the COI. This evidence was never used, same as the tunnels aimed to enable terror attacks in civilian population centers within Israel.

This attitude of Hamas that provokes the hitting of civilian population, especially children, in order to produce visual material that works for their PR is an even worse crime against humanity than the use of human shields.

It is legally not justified to make conclusions on visual material showing the results, the destruction caused by the attacks. The legal evidence should be based on what an attack was aimed to do and what could have been the result if defense tools such as the Iron Dome system, Protected DCCs and shelters would not have been used by the side that is under fire. Iron dome and other defensive measures are an indirect protection for Palestinian civilians, because if Hamas would have succeeded to hit a high number of Israeli civilians, Israel would have been forced to undertake very tough attacks, resulting in many more Palestinian casualties.

Col. Corn concluded that it is advised not to use the high standards of the IDF regarding civilian casualties when a battle should be decisively and quickly won, because it might have a negative influence on the impact of the attack.

II.

Anne Herzberg from NGO Monitor said that the apartheid accusation, picked up by Ms. Pillay and by Amnesty International, aims to raise doubts about the legitimacy of the Jewish state.

Olga Meshoe a South African attorney and human rights activist, described the apartheid she experienced in her homeland, pointing out that accusing Israeli democracy of apartheid diminishes this crime and is an insult to all those who suffered under apartheid. She said that South African people are full of sympathy to Israel and it is only part of the leadership who expressed these accusations.

Yosef Haddad, an Israeli Arab human rights activist, felt insulted by the false accusations against his homeland Israel, where he lives in freedom and equality. Accusing Israel and minimizing the responsibility of Hamas and the Palestinian authority is working against peace and understanding and is an incentive to Hamas and other terrorists to continue their terroristic attacks.

The last speaker was **Einat Wilf**, who pointed out that denying the Jewish people of their state in their historic land is the root of the conflict. "Occupation" is not the root but the result of the Arab Israeli conflict. The land was taken by war, which is not illegitimate, because of the ongoing denial of the Jewish state. Calling it "apartheid" is an attempt to delegitimize the state of Israel, so those who would like to annihilate it, find their justification.

Einat Wilf compared the debates at the UNCHR to "a secular church", that independently of what Israel is doing, puts blame on Israel, drawing parallels to the medieval obsession of the Church to blame the Jews for all evil. In medieval Europe, Jews were forced to debate with the Church and independent of whether they lost or won the debate, they were in both cases "the losers". She reminded the audience of the terrorist attack on the Israeli Olympic team in 1972 in Munich, that the Palestinians considered a success because it "put their cause on the map". She pointed out that as long as Palestinians use and consider destruction as a helpful tool, peace will not be achieved. Peace will be achieved only when they turn to use constructive means. The UN and its institutions are not helpful as long as they support the destructive tools of Hamas and of other terrorists.

Closing of the side event.