



Human Rights Council 25th Session

Item 6 – Israel UPR

NGO: IAJLJ - The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Representative delivering the statement: Adv. Tom Gal

Thank you Mr. President,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists has read the report submitted by Israel to this Council as well as the final version drafted by the Working Group. We have also attended the Interactive Dialogue with Israel's representatives, held last October. We wish to commend the working group for its work as well as Israel for its decision to participate in the UPR process and retain its cooperation with the Council. In many aspects, Israel report reveals the consideration of recommendations given by states in its last review, as well as their implementation. Some aspects on the other hand, should be further improved.

However, we choose to dedicate our statement not to those aspects in need of improvement, but rather to the non-constructive criticism and remarks made by many states during the Interactive Dialogue. These are a reflection of a political agenda that ignores the role of the UPR process – to promote the protection of Human Rights. Many states that have attended the Interactive Dialogue preferred to refer in their statements to Israel's "aggression", to its policy of "occupation" and to the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian territories. Indeed, a thorough and comprehensive report should include a review of the human rights situation in all the territories under Israel's control. Israel's report did include such references. But it cannot be the sole purpose, aim and center of the UPR process.

Beside the population living in the OPT, there are more than seven million citizens in Israel, all of them deserve that the UPR process will be concerned with the promotion of their human rights. Moreover, this upcoming Monday, a one day long discussion will be dedicated to the human rights situation in the OPT, held under Item 7. True, the existence of such Item on the agenda does not exempt Israel from including all relevant information on the matter in its UPR report, but its existence does enable the UPR process to focus first and foremost on other Israeli citizens and their protection. We are disappointed that political agenda has affected the UPR process, as we believe it is of great importance. We hope that in the future, the Council's platform will be better used to the promotion of human rights of all persons under Israel's jurisdiction, as is occurring in the UPR process of other States.