



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Itzhak Levanon
Permanent Representative

7th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

Statement Before Vote on A/HRC/7/L.3

"Self-Determination"

27 March 2008

Mr. President,

This topic is always presented under a narrow focus using subjective language.

Contrary to what some may believe, Israel does not oppose the right to self-determination. But we do not believe that the principle of self-determination is bestowed upon one party only. Rather, Israel believes that self-determination is extended to all, whether they are Palestinian, Israeli or of some other origin.

Mr. President,

Had this resolution simply focused on the right of all peoples to self-determination, without the introduction of extraneous, problematic elements, Israel could have co-sponsored it. However, the resolution's proponents have greedily decided instead to present yet another politicized text which fails to mention key factors complicating the Palestinian pursuit of self-determination. Of course, this is not surprising, given that acknowledging these factors would bestow some responsibility upon the Palestinians, something the Muslim and Arab delegations of this Council are reluctant to do.

The irony is that Israel finds itself in the extraordinary position of agreeing with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories, who stated in his latest report, dated January 2008:

(quote) *“The right of self-determination of the Palestinian people is seriously threatened by the division of Gaza and the West Bank resulting from the seizure of power by Hamas in Gaza in June 2007.”*(end quote) (A/HRC/7/17/pg.2)

Why is this significant aspect not reflected in the proposed resolution? The violent takeover of the Gaza Strip by the Hamas terrorist organization threatens not only the Palestinians’ rights, but threatens Israel’s rights as well. Yet, the resolution focuses only upon the right of the Palestinians to live in freedom, justice and dignity within the boundaries of a future Palestinian state, while intentionally ignoring the right of Israel to also live in freedom, justice and dignity without the constant specter of missiles and violence.

Mr. President,

As usual, the resolution proposes no constructive solutions that will help move the parties toward the two-state objective and so it asks delegations to cast an irrelevant vote. To ensure their right to self-determination, living in a democratic state side by side in peace and security with Israel, the Palestinians will need to give others exactly what they are asking for themselves.

Thank you.