

11th April, 2023

His Excellency Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General, United Nations
760 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
sgcentral@un.org

His Excellency Dr. Volker Türk
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson, 52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland
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Dear Secretary-General Guterres and High Commissioner Türk,

We write this letter to you on behalf of The International Legal Forum, a global network of over 4,000 lawyers and activists, committed to combating antisemitism, advancing human rights and promoting peace in the Middle East, and the Solomon-Observatory on Discrimination, an Italian-based NGO combating antisemitism.

We wish to express our utter dismay and outrage at the abhorrent statements made by Ms. Francesca Albanese, the 'UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories', in the wake of the wave of terror perpetrated against civilians in Israel this past week, and call for her immediate dismissal.

Following the terrorist murder of an Italian tourist, Allesandro Parini (35), and British-Israeli sisters Rena (20) and Maya (15) Dee, Ms. Albanese explicitly and inexcusably, [said](#) that Israel does not have a right to self-defense against Palestinian terror, thereby directly endorsing the murder of Israeli civilians, including children. She has only further reiterated this position since.

In it is unfathomable that such a statement would ever be made by a UN representative, but this is just the latest in Ms. Albanese's relentless, systematic and unhinged bias against Israel.

Ms. Albanese has a long history of antisemitism and virulent bias, both before and during her term as Special Rapporteur, using age-old antisemitic tropes such as accusing "the Jewish lobby" of controlling the United States, repeatedly dismissing Israeli security concerns, such as following this most recent wave of terror, as well as comparing Israelis to Nazis, expressing support for the BDS Movement and charging the Jewish state with the heinous crimes of apartheid, genocide and war crimes.

In November 2022, Ms. Albanese even addressed a Hamas terror group conference in Gaza, instructing them "you have the right to resist."

The situation became so untenable that, in February this year, [a bi-partisan group of Members of Congress wrote to you](#), calling for Ms. Albanese's immediate dismissal, on the basis of her incessant antisemitism and anti-Israel bias, noting also "her inexcusable silence against terrorism targeting Israelis and her outrageous and prejudicial remarks clearly reflect the irredeemable bias of her mandate."

As you will be aware, pursuant to the [UN Code of Conduct for Special Rapporteurs](#), the Rapporteurs work shall be guided by the notions of “impartiality and objectivity”. When it comes to Ms. Albanese, there is not even the pretext of these values, with Ms. Albanese displaying persistent, ongoing and blind bias and hostility. How much longer can the United Nations tolerate this?

Mr. Secretary-General, you have previously stated that you would commit yourself to making sure that antisemitism does not prevail and that equality in the treatment of all states at the UN is fully respected. Yet, as long as Ms. Albanese remains in this role and her entirely one-sided mandate is not removed altogether, antisemitism will continue to ravage your institution, while full equality and respect afforded to all UN member states, will remain to be denied to the one and only Jewish state, Israel.

We therefore call on you to ensure that the UN lives up to its own rules and standards, and to send a clear message that antisemitism and endorsement of violence will not be tolerated at the United Nations, by dismissing Ms. Albanese and abolishing her position entirely. The UN would be far better served by replacing Ms. Albanese’s mandate with a Special Rapporteur for Combating Antisemitism.

Yours respectfully,



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