

## Letter to UN Commission

It seems almost futile to send a submission to this Commission of Inquiry. This is not an honest inquiry based on seeking the truth and evaluating the facts. It is part of a cynical campaign designed to delegitimize and demonize the Jewish State of Israel. Given the open anti-Israel bias of the Commissioners and the flawed and politicized process behind the establishment of the Commission, we know that the conclusions are pre-ordained. But even if no one is listening, we must speak up.

This submission is on the topic: “Identification of those responsible”

The Commission has indicated that it wants to get at the “root causes” of the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, and it wants to identify who is responsible. We already know that its predetermined conclusion will be that Israel (and only Israel) is the culprit. But this is the wrong conclusion, premised on nothing more than bias and a political agenda. Here are the relevant facts:

- The so-called precipitating causes of the Gaza conflict in May 2021 (e.g. Sheikh Jarrah, violence on Temple Mount, etc.) were not causes but simply excuses for Hamas to launch more than 4,300 rockets and mortar rounds at Israel, including barrages directed at major population centers such as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Even [Human Rights Watch](#) (no friend of Israel) was forced to conclude that Hamas was engaging in a war crime.
- Such behavior is not surprising because it is consistent with the Charter and policies of Hamas. Their position has been and remains that “[t]he establishment of “Israel” is entirely illegal... that no part of the land of

*Palestine shall be compromised or conceded... [They] reject any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea."*

Since the goal of Hamas is the destruction of the Jewish state of Israel, the May conflict was just another attempt to achieve this.

- It is evident that Hamas cannot win militarily, so they stage such conflicts to try to win over world opinion by making themselves appear as defenders of the Palestinians against an apartheid state that engages in oppression, ethnic cleansing and violations of international laws. This is a simplistic and biased narrative designed for the uncritical media. It provides fodder for antisemitic groups that promote hatred for Israel across the globe.
- If the UN Commission of Inquiry decides to swallow the Hamas propaganda, you will bring the United Nations into further disrepute (if that is possible); and face charges that you are complicit with those antisemites who would destroy the only Jewish state in the world. It will be clear that the United Nations Human Rights Council has no interest in promoting a peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

In short, to answer the Commission's questions:

The root cause of the conflict is Hamas' desire to destroy Israel either militarily or through a hateful narrative of lies.

Those responsible are Hamas --and everyone who buys uncritically into their propaganda, including the UN Commission of Inquiry (if it unwisely decides to do so).

- Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County

