

Federico Villegas
President of Human Rights Council
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

12 September 2022

Dear Mr. President,

Today as you open the 51st session of the Human Rights Council, I write on behalf of United Nations Watch to express our grave concern at the [nomination](#) of Qatari Ambassador Hend Al-Muftah to become Chair of the United Nations Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, an appointment that you are due to make imminently, ahead of the assembly on November 24-25, 2022.

As detailed below, and in a [new report](#) published today on our website, Qatar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva has a long record of publishing racist tropes about Jews, bigoted attacks on gays, and false information and conspiracy theories about Western societies and liberalism.

Mr. President, Ambassador Al-Muftah's multiple posts over more than a decade stand in complete contravention to the principles and values of the UN Forum which she seeks to lead, and of the founding charter of this Human Rights Council.

That Ms. Al-Muftah was awarded a Master's degree from SOAS in 1999 and a Ph.D. from Exeter in 2004, has held several high teaching and management positions at Qatar University and the Doha Institute for Graduate studies, was classified as the most influential social media person in 2016 in Qatar, was appointed to Qatar's Shura Council, and [honored](#) by the British Council in 2019—and yet none of this inhibited her ignorant comments, systematic incitement of anti-gay bigotry, and spreading classical tropes of antisemitism including accusing the Jews of world domination—is a sad comment on those institutions. Yet now that her bigotry is documented herein, we trust that you will take the necessary action.

"Jews rule the world" & "American Zionists control the U.S media"

Ambassador Al-Muftah [writes](#) that "the Jews" focused investments in industry and media, "and that is why they dominated, tyrannized and ruled the world." Again, [says](#) Al-Muftah, "the American Zionist controls the U.S. media," and "thus it is well-targeted for achieving their anti-Islam everywhere!"

This hatred, she [recalls](#), was instilled in her from the beginning: "We learned from a young age that the Jews are our enemies!" Again, Ambassador Al-Muftah [added](#) on another occasion: "I only remember our daily morning anthem from my childhood: Palestine is our country, The Jews are our enemies, And salute to the flag."

This life-long hatred of Jews as enemies has gone so far as to include calls for violence. Last year, in May 2021, Al-Muftah wrote: "Oh God... turn the Zionists away from them, blind their eyes and paralyze their hands..."

Earlier, she [called](#) for the "expulsion of Jews from Palestine." This, she stressed, is "not only an important issue for the Palestinians, but our cause all, including you, me and us!"

Expulsion is only the beginning. In December 2017, Ambassador Al-Muftah [posted](#) a viral antisemitic video featuring a child calling to trample the corpses of Jews, in which the latter says: "You sons of Judaism... By God... We will liberate Palestine, we will expel you and trample the last corpse of a cursed Zionist in Gaza with our honorable feet, God willing."

Moreover, Ambassador Al-Muftah has spread multiple, dangerous antisemitic tropes, including accusing the Jews of immorality, conspiring to corrupt society, and of conspiring to destroy and dominate the world. In one instance, she [tweeted](#) a text by a notorious antisemite, Dr. Mustafa Mahmoud, [accusing](#) "the Talmud tribe and the Protocols tribe" — i.e., the Jews — of infecting Western civilization and liberalism with "obscurity and decadence, cocaine, crack, nudity, sex and violence." In the article shared and endorsed by Ambassador Al-Muftah, the Jews are described as "the termites of that civilization" who "eat it from the inside," a tribe that has been "planning for a thousand years to destroy this world and dominate it." After sharing this antisemitic conspiracy, the Qatari Ambassador added, "I advise all young people to read it! Don't be fooled!"

In another Twitter thread, Ambassador Al-Muftah proposed a [conspiracy theory](#) claiming that Israel knew about and was implicated in an Al Qaeda attack in the Sinai, that Israel actually [created](#) Al Qaeda, and indeed "hangs over every terrorist threat," and [operates](#) "hidden hands in every country" to carry out conspiracies. In her [words](#), "the Zionists have actually succeeded in distracting the world from our main cause, which is Palestine and their criminal violations!"

In the same vein, Qatari Ambassador Al-Muftah [tweeted](#) out a headline—"BBC Correspondent says MOSSAD did 9/11"—while sharing a [video](#) of the antisemite Alan Hart, as he was interviewed by leading 9/11 conspiracy theorist Kevin Barrett. Hart claimed that Israel's Mossad—"and the Zionists and the Neocons"—helped orchestrate the 9/11 attacks by using a "controlled ground explosion" to destroy the twin towers, and by guiding the planes by transponders. "A point of view worth pondering," added Qatar's envoy.

Ambassador Al-Muftah has also posted caricatures with classically antisemitic tropes about Jews controlling world leaders, including [one image](#) of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with the Star of David on his shirt, riding and beating United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon like an animal.

Though she provided no evidence to back her claim, Al-Muftah [believes](#) that whenever people discuss Palestine, "international conspiracies" escalate in an "immoral and inhuman" manner.

No Human Rights For Gays, "May God Curse Them!"

About gays, Ambassador Al-Muftah is equally clear and consistent. In October 2011, she [called](#) for "God's curse" upon gays, and also upon those who "encouraged them." In June 2018, she [again called](#) on God to curse gays. Admiring Russia at the 2018 World Cup for opposing gays, she exclaimed: "May God curse them!"

Although the United Nations has emphasized that gays have human rights, Al-Muftah [calls](#) gay rights "Disgusting rights!"

In response to a UN plea for gay rights in Africa, Ms. Al-Muftah [told](#) the UN to "stay away from Middle East and Arab countries, keep your rights for your people." Days later, [citing](#) a news report that debate about homosexuality in Islam is beginning, she again warned: "Stay away from Islam, don't U understand???"

Likewise, about gays, Ambassador Al-Muftah [wrote](#): "Damn this cultural globalization that gave them rights they don't deserve." She [doubled down](#): "Absolutely NO! Defending human rights has nothing to do with gay rights!"

For Ambassador Al-Muftah, the would-be head of the UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, Western ideas and gay rights are all to blame: "The ideas of secularism, liberalism, atheism and homosexuality have spread and are practiced under the pretext of respecting 'human rights' and 'other opinion!'"

In October 2018, she [made clear](#) her views: Gay rights are "in conflict with the three monotheistic religions and morality," and "also with the legal legislation in most countries." She therefore opposed raising gay rights at the International Parliamentary Union.

Al-Muftah even [condemned](#) former U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney for celebrating his daughter's gay marriage. She said "the West celebrates the lack of reason and religion" and "the decay of its morals."

'NATO was paid to kill Qaddafi', 'France is racist against Muslims,' 'USA will end'

Finally, a consistent theme for Ambassador Al-Muftah is that Western countries are malign, degenerate and racist.

"NATO were paid to kill Qaddafi," she wrote.

"The end of America and others," [says](#) Ambassador Al-Muftah, "does not need any prophecy. Our Messenger and our Qur'an told us about it 1400 years ago, and it is inevitably true."

"Terrorism," [said](#) Ambassador Al-Muftah, 'is a term that the West has been unable to frame except within the limits of achieving their own agenda!'"

Al-Muftah [believes](#) human rights are used as a pretext for deformation and decay of morals, "in light of the hegemony of Western culture."

In particular among Western nations, Ambassador Al-Muftah [believes](#) that "France's government and people are known for their racism against Muslims!"

In 2020, she [wrote](#) that French President "Macron and his likes fight Islam." Last year, after President Macron criticized Islamists in wake of the beheading in France of teacher Samuel Paty, Ambassador Al-Muftah [posted](#) a call to "Boycott French products."

"France," she [writes](#): "is an arrogant dictatorship...in the guise of democracy." It is a country of "fake freedom" which, she [tweeted](#), is "killing the freedom of innocent Muslims in Mali," just like, she [suggested](#), President Obama was doing in Afghanistan.

Mr. President, despicable lies, dangerous antisemitic tropes, discrimination against gays, and disinformation cannot be given sanction, and, on the contrary, must be exposed and condemned at the highest levels.

Accordingly, we urge you to summarily reject the nomination of Qatari Ambassador Henda Al-Muftah to become Chair of the United Nations Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, and for you and the Secretary-General to denounce her bigotry.

We thank you for your urgent attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director

CC: Secretary General Antonio Guterres
Miguel Ángel Moratinos, UN Focal Point to monitor Anti-Semitism
Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity