



His Excellency Mr. Jürg Lauber

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Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
37, Quai d'Orsay
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Paris, April 2, 2025

Subject: Opposition to the Renewal of Ms. Francesca Albanese's Mandate as Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Mr. Minister,

We are an association of lawyers registered with the Paris Bar¹, comprising nearly 200 lawyers in France and across Europe, dedicated to combating antisemitism, racism, Holocaust denial, all forms of terrorism or their glorification, and defending fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Through this letter, we urge France, in its capacity as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council ("HRC"), to express its firm and unequivocal opposition to the renewal of the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, entrusted to Ms. Francesca Albanese during the 49th session of the HRC. We also call upon the President of the HRC to transmit this letter to the Council, in accordance with the President's statement of June 18, 2008 (PRST/8/2, § 3).

Appointed for a three-year term starting from her assumption of duties on May 1, 2022, Ms. Francesca Albanese's mandate remains in effect "until the date on which the Council reviews it," pursuant to Resolution 5/1 of the Human Rights Council of June 18, 2007 (§ 61, Appendix I). It is therefore likely that a renewal, whether tacit or explicit, may occur during the 58th session of the HRC, which concludes on April 4.

¹ About us : [Actions Avocats - Association répertoriée au Barreau de Paris](#) - Paris Bar References : [ACTIONS AVOCATS | Barreau de Paris \(avocatparis.org\)](#)

However, in the exercise of her mandate, Ms. Albanese has repeatedly made public statements, taken positions, and engaged in actions that can be regarded as fundamentally contrary to the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity that should guide the consideration of any renewal of her mandate, as stipulated in Article 39 of Resolution 5/1 of the Council², and more broadly, to the ethical standards of the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council of June 18, 2007 (Resolution RES 5/2).

She has notably been accused of serious breaches, including:

- Repeated public statements relaying a narrative aligned with the propaganda of Hamas, an organization recognized as terrorist by the European Union and several UN member states, including France, particularly in November 2022 during a conference attended by senior Hamas officials (“You have a right to resist”). In the wake of such statements, following October 7, her first report sought to justify and relativize the terrorist attacks that struck Israeli civilian populations, while she publicly “doubted” the veracity of sexual violence committed on October 7, despite its authentication by Ms. Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict³.
- In response to a statement by French President Emmanuel Macron describing the October 7, 2023 massacre as “the greatest antisemitic massacre of the 21st century,” Ms. Albanese tweeted: “The victims of 7/10 were not killed because of their Judaism but in response to Israeli oppression,” a statement condemned by France, Germany, Canada, and the United States as contrary to UN values.
- Echoing recurring antisemitic tropes, Ms. Albanese compared, in a series of posts on X in October 2024⁴, Israel’s actions in Gaza to those of the Third Reich, suggesting a historical continuity in oppression (“Our collective obliviousness to what led, 100 years ago, to the Third Reich...”). These statements, which include a distortion of the genocide perpetrated during the Holocaust, violate the fundamental principles of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7 on Holocaust remembrance, at a time when France is committed to combating antisemitism and preserving historical memory. This analogy is explicitly reiterated in tweets from December 2023⁵, July 2024⁶, August 2024⁷, and October 2024⁸. Widely reported accusations that “America is subjugated by the Jewish Lobby” or targeting the “mafia-like techniques” of Jewish organizations carry the same unacceptable antisemitic undertones.
- Her UN reports, distinguished by their damning titles (Anatomy of a Genocide, March 2024, and Genocide as Colonial Erasure, October 2024), stand apart from other special rapporteurs’ reports and constitute a biased indictment attributing to Israel the ultimate crime of genocide—a charge that international courts themselves have not upheld, irrespective of any crimes otherwise committed in the Gaza conflict.

² § 39 : « The following general criteria will be of paramount importance while nominating, selecting and appointing mandate-holders: (a) expertise; (b) experience in the field of the mandate; (c) independence; (d) impartiality; (e) personal integrity; and (f) objectivity. »

³ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147217>

⁴ JNS.org, “What the UN ignores on Francesca Albanese” (11 December 2024). Middle East Eye, “UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese calls David Lammy a ‘genocide denier’” (14 Novembre 2024).

⁵ <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/173164644777427668>

⁶ <https://x.com/ADL/status/1816581111050375178>

⁷ <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1822184214860534271>

⁸ <https://x.com/JGreenblattADL/status/1846276664545923517>

The inherently singular and highly sensitive nature of the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, established by Resolution 93/2A of the Commission, in that it targets violations of the principles and foundations of international law “by Israel” (and not by any perpetrator), precisely justifies strict adherence to the principles of objectivity, impartiality, restraint, moderation, and integrity (including, as per paragraph 3 of the Code of Conduct, probity, impartiality, fairness, honesty, and good faith) required by this mandate.

The aforementioned statements, along with numerous other public declarations⁹, gravely disregard the requirements of the Code of Conduct, particularly those obliging rapporteurs to “ensure that their personal political opinions do not affect the execution of their mission” and to “exercise restraint, moderation, and discretion in the performance of their functions so as not to undermine the recognition of the independent nature of their mandate or the conditions necessary for its proper execution” (Article 12).

Consequently, we respectfully but firmly call upon:

- The President of the HRC to consider this letter as information to be transmitted to the Council, in accordance with the President’s statement of June 18, 2008 (PRST/8/2);
- France to formally express its opposition to the renewal of Ms. Francesca Albanese’s mandate during the deliberations of the 58th session of the Human Rights Council;
- France and the Council to support efforts to reassess this specific mandate, in accordance with the procedures set out in HRC resolutions, to ensure that future appointments meet the required standards of the Code of Conduct;
- France to reaffirm its commitment to UN mechanisms that respect fundamental rights, including the fight against antisemitism and hate speech and the prevention of violations of international law.

This call aligns with that of 42 French parliamentarians, the Dutch government¹⁰, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives¹¹, numerous organizations worldwide (including UN Watch and the Anti-Defamation League), and the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions (CRIF), to end and not renew, even tacitly, Ms. Albanese’s mandate, which, since 2022, has fostered the spread of unabashed antisemitism and undermined the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Sincerely,



Deborah Journo



Johann Bouskila

⁹ UN Watch : [Wolf-in-Sheeps-Clothing-Report-on-Francesca-Albanese.pdf](#) ; Anti-Defamation League : [Francesca Albanese in Her Own Words | Center on Extremism](#)

¹⁰ [Vragen aan M over de mogelijke herbenoeming van de VN Speciaal Gezant mevrouw Albanese](#)

¹¹ [March-31-US-Congress-Letter-to-UNHRC-President.pdf](#)

Copy to:

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