

Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
United States

28 April 2025

Notice: Cessation of Francesca Albanese's Mandate on May 1st

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

This letter serves as formal notice that the UN's purported renewal of Francesca Albanese's term as "Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories" is invalid, without any legal effect, and null and void. We expressly warned you of this consequence in [our letter](#) to you of 3 April 2025.

As you know, her purported renewal, [announced](#) at the conclusion of the 58th session of the Human Rights Council, was carried out illegally, in direct contravention of [HRC Presidential Statement 8/PRST/2](#)—adopted by consensus in 2008, and enshrined in Art. 7 of the [Manual of Operations of the Special Procedures](#)—which imposes a clear and binding obligation: *"The President of the Human Rights Council will convey to the Council information brought to his or her attention... concerning cases of persistent non-compliance by a mandate-holder"* with the [Code of Conduct](#), particularly in advance of reappointments. International law experts have [deemed](#) 8/PRST/2 one of the Council's four "institution building texts." Contempt for this core rule carries consequences.

As you are aware, a [formal submission with a 56-page dossier](#) documenting Ms. Albanese's gross and systematic violations of that Code—including breaches of impartiality, integrity, and restraint—was submitted by United Nations Watch to the President of the Council on 26 March 2025, receipt of which was duly acknowledged by the President's office. In addition, [letters](#) to the President were filed by the Governments of Argentina, Hungary, and Israel, as well as by the Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, who [called on](#) the President to exercise his *"sworn duty to utilize [his] authority as stated in Presidential Statement 8/2 (PRST/8/2) to 'convey to the Council any information brought to [his] attention concerning cases of persistent non-compliance by a mandate-holder...'"* Astonishingly, in violation of his duties and of the prescribed legal procedure, the President refused to do so. Likewise, the Council violated its own duty to "consider such information" and to "act upon it as appropriate."

Because the information on Ms. Albanese's sustained and egregious violations of the Code of Conduct had direct bearing on the question at hand—whether she qualified for reappointment or not—the President's failure to convey these submissions to the Council for their consideration and action constituted a material violation of 8/PRST/2 and of the Manual of Operations of the Special Procedures, thereby rendering her purported renewal *ultra vires*, null and void.

Finally, we note that the President’s decision, as recounted in the UNHRC [Bureau Minutes](#) of 1 April 2025, to instead divert the complaint letters to the Coordination Committee, was a flagrant attempt to bypass the Council and its Member States. In doing so, the President—with the Bureau’s complicity—not only acted without legal authority, but also subverted the Council’s integrity and its duty of oversight. This was not a procedural slip; it was a willful and flagrant abdication of responsibility. According to 8/PRST/2, when such allegations arise, the President *must* bring the matter to the attention of the 47-nation Council for its consideration and action. Handing the letters to an irrelevant committee—comprised of your own colleagues—was a dereliction of duty, devoid of legal effect, and void ab initio.

Accordingly, Ms. Albanese’s mandate shall legally terminate on 30 April 2025, at the expiration of her initial term, and any purported exercise of authority beyond that date is without legal basis or effect. As of 1 May, she shall hold no legal authority to act in the name of the United Nations, and will not, and cannot claim to be, the “Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories.” Any continued use of the title, platform, or privileges associated with that position would constitute a misrepresentation and may give rise to further legal and diplomatic consequences.

Please note that as of that date, Ms. Albanese will no longer benefit from any privileges or immunities under the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, or any other source of international legal protection afforded to mandate-holders acting in an official capacity. As such, she may be subject to legal proceedings in the United States or other jurisdictions, including civil or criminal liability; may be denied entry or visa access to countries that recognize her lack of official status; and may be subject to targeted sanctions for inciting racism and antisemitism—for which she was recently [condemned](#) by the governments of the United States, France, Germany, Canada, and the Netherlands, among others—and for providing material support to designated terrorist organizations. We trust you will act accordingly to uphold the integrity of the United Nations’ own core rules.

Sincerely,



Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director

CC: U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio
French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot
German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock
UK Foreign Minister David Lammy
Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly