



SPECIAL PROCEDURES
UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES
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31 May 2025

Mr President,

I am writing to you in relation to your letter dated 7 April 2025, which transmitted to the Coordination Committee (Committee) the letter dated 24 March 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Israel, as well as other similar letters addressed to you in your capacity as the President of the Human Rights Council. The said letter from Israel alleges persistent non-compliance of the Code of Conduct by Ms Francesca Albanese, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. Other letters contain broadly similar allegations.

The Committee examined carefully the allegations contained in all these letters and the accompanied materials. Considering that these letters broadly deal with similar allegations, the Committee decided to address them together through this single letter. Moreover, since a majority of these allegations were already addressed in detail by the Committee in its letter dated 28 March 2025, this letter should be read in conjunction with our earlier letter. Please note that all allegation letters and the accompanied materials were shared with the concerned mandate holder in accordance with the Special Procedures' Internal Advisory Procedure, whose process and related correspondence are confidential.

The Committee's findings on these allegations against Ms Albanese are outlined below under specific themes.

Standards of independence, objectivity, impartiality and integrity

The Committee acknowledges that all mandate holders must always act in the line with the Code of Conduct, act independently, rely on objective and dependable facts, and uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The Committee had previously reviewed various social media posts of Ms Albanese and found no breach of the Code. We also note that the Special Rapporteur has reiterated that she will continue to adhere to the principles of impartiality, objectivity and integrity outlined in the Code. The Committee is in the process of finalising internal guidance for social media use by mandate holders to ensure that their views on social media are in accordance with the Code and enable constructive dialogue among all relevant stakeholders.

Antisemitic behaviour, and dissemination of hate speech and disinformation against Israel

The Committee has already dealt with the allegations of antisemitism and hate speech in our letter dated 28 March 2025. As noted in the said letter, the views expressed by the Special Rapporteur concern the extent to which conduct of Israel abides by international human rights law and international humanitarian law. In fact, the Council has specifically given the Special Rapporteur a mandate to "investigate Israel's violations of the principles and bases of international law, international

To: H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber
President of the Human Rights Council

humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967”. Moreover, legitimate criticisms of the Government of Israel’s policies and actions should not be equated to antisemitism.

We also find no evidence of disinformation disseminated by Ms Albanese, as she bases her comments on information corroborated by UN bodies, verified news reports and information from reputable sources on the ground. On the contrary, the Committee finds that some disinformation is contained in some of the allegation letters sent to the President, e.g., that the Special Rapporteur did not condemn the 7 October 2023 heinous attacks, or that she rejects Israel’s right to exist.

Operating a global network to target Israel

Regarding allegations that the Special Rapporteur has been running a global network of NGOs to target Israel, the Committee was informed by Ms Albanese that while she worked with the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) and co-founded the Global Network on the Question of Palestine (GNQP), this was prior to her appointment by the Human Rights Council as a mandate holder. We were informed that Ms Albanese had disclosed this information in her application for the Special Rapporteur position and stepped down from the GNQP and as the Coordinator of the ARDD Question of Palestine Program as soon as the list of the shortlisted candidates by the Council was published. The Committee, therefore, sees no impropriety or conflict of interest in this regard.

Conflict of interest regarding the past work of Ms Albanese’s husband

In relation to a potential conflict of interest linked to the previous work of Ms Albanese’s husband with the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, the Committee would like to raise serious concerns at the attempt to target family members of mandate holders and scrutinise their personal life. The Special Rapporteur has clarified that her husband had a direct contract with UNDP for six months in 2011 and served as an economic advisor to the Ministry as part of UNDP’s technical assistance program. Considering that Ms Albanese’s husband had no direct contract with the Palestinian Authority and this role was more than a decade prior to her application for the Special Rapporteur’s position, the Committee sees no conflict of interest in this regard. We also find that Ms Albanese’s husband did not publish “joint” Facebook posts with her and what her husband does in his personal capacity should not be attributed to the Special Rapporteur.

Support to terrorist groups

Considering that Ms Albanese’s reports and statements are fully in line with her mandate given by the Human Rights Council as well as consistent with international human rights and humanitarian law, the Committee finds no merit in the allegation that she is providing support to terrorist groups.

“External accomplices” to Ms Albanese’s antisemitism

The Committee notes that it is a well-established practice of academic institutions as well as individuals (including university students and researchers) to provide external support to mandate holders. We therefore find nothing problematic in various institutions or individuals supporting Ms Albanese’s work. In fact, the Committee is highly concerned that external academic institutions and/or their students are being targeted for performing legitimate human rights work and are portrayed as accomplices of antisemitism. This is not only incorrect, but also totally unacceptable as it puts these people in serious risks.

Financial improprieties

Regarding alleged financial improprieties (e.g., requesting payments for her official UN work and use of external funding for travel to Australia and New Zealand etc.), the Committee had already dealt with the substance of these allegations previously. We would like to reiterate that no breach of the Code of Conduct was found in this respect.

Unacceptable threats against Ms Albanese

The Committee is seriously concerned by the consideration and transmission of allegations that contain serious and unacceptable threats against the Special Rapporteur, including calls for legal action against her. The Committee reiterates that, as a United Nations Special Procedures mandate holder, Ms Albanese enjoys the privileges and immunities of an expert on mission, in relation to the exercise of official functions, in accordance with Article VI of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and other applicable law.

To conclude, in view of the above assessment, the Committee does not find any instances of persistent non-compliance of the Code of Conduct by Ms Albanese. Therefore, there is no case to invoke 8/PRST/2 against the Special Rapporteur.

Let me also take this opportunity to encourage Israel to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur to enable her to discharge a mandate given by the Human Rights Council. Instead of repeatedly raising unfounded allegations against Ms Albanese and/or taking coordinated actions to intimidate her, her family and people supporting her work, all States and other actors should engage with the substance of Ms Albanese's work in good faith.

The Committee also urges the President of the Human Rights Council as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights to take decisive steps to ensure that the Special Rapporteur, her family members and colleagues working with her mandate are protected against vicious attacks and acts of intimidation.

Although the Internal Advisory Procedure's process and related correspondence are confidential, the Committee notes the Presidency's request to share this letter with the members and observers of the Human Rights Council, considering the exceptional circumstances in which the allegations against the Special Rapporteur have been made. In consultation with the concerned mandate holder, the Committee agrees with the request to share this letter with the Council's members and observers.

I remain available to assist if there are any further queries related to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Surya Deva', with a stylized, flowing script.

Surya Deva
Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures