

The UN's Anti-Israel Inquisition

The [UN Commission of Inquiry on Israel](#) was initiated by the Arab and Islamic states at a special session that they convened at the UN Human Rights Council in wake of the May 2021 Hamas-Israel war. Rather than investigating the Hamas rockets that rained down on Israeli civilians, the new commission was tasked with examining the “root causes” of the conflict, including Israel’s alleged “systematic discrimination” based on race. Instead of the usual one-year term for such inquiries, the investigation of Israel was made perpetual — it has no end date.

The distinct bias of the inquiry was further made clear by who the UN chose as its members. Navi Pillay, before being chosen as the supposedly impartial chair, had openly lobbied governments to “sanction apartheid Israel.” On an anti-Israel website, commissioner Miloon Kothari gave an interview questioning Israel’s right to UN membership, and ranting about “the Jewish lobby” that is “controlling social media.” For this, Kothari was [condemned for antisemitism](#) by the U.S., U.K., Germany, and 15 other nations, but yet remained on the Commission. The third commissioner, Chris Sidoti, claimed that “accusations of antisemitism are thrown around like rice at a wedding.”



Former Commissioner Navi Pillay with UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Throughout its tenure, the Commission has released numerous reports pushing pro-Hamas propaganda cloaked in legal language. In July 2025, reportedly out of fear of U.S. sanctions, Pillay [suddenly resigned](#), as did Kothari. Before their resignation took effect, the Commission presented [one last biased report](#) at the UN General Assembly, accusing Israel of genocide.

In November 2025, the president of the Human Rights Council [reappointed](#) Chris Sidoti to the commission, along with two new appointments: Florence Mumba and Srinivasan Muralidhar, as the new Chair. The biased mandate of the COI remains unchanged.

The Bottom Line: It's Time to Terminate the UN's Permanent Anti-Israel Inquiry

- Western democracies must stand up against one-sided measures targeting Israel by calling for the termination of this biased mandate. Until then, states should demand that the new members of the COI uphold the UN’s basic impartiality standards, and diligently call out their distortions.