

Item 7: The UNHRC's Standing Agenda Item Targeting Israel

Every session of the UN Human Rights Council features a standing agenda item targeting Israel. No other country in the world — not Iran, Russia, or North Korea — is singled out in this fashion. The other nine items on the Council's permanent agenda are all generic, and do not refer to any particular country or situation.

Under the debate that takes place three times a year pursuant to [Agenda Item 7](#), murderous regimes like Iran and North Korea take the floor to accuse Israel of horrible crimes, while making no mention of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, or the Palestinian Authority. The debate is entirely one-sided.

In protest against the agenda item's selectivity, Israel, along with the United States and many other democracies, no longer participates. As a result, many claims enter the record at the United Nations despite having no basis in fact.

These [claims](#) include unfounded accusations that Israel is committing genocide, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing, all the while attacking Palestinian holy sites and stealing their natural resources. Since the October 7th atrocities by Hamas and the war that ensued, Agenda Item 7 has been further weaponized to accuse the Jewish state of starving Palestinians and targeting civilians, schools and hospitals.



The Council's credibility and legitimacy remain compromised so long as one country is singled out while serial human rights abusers escape scrutiny. Agenda Item 7 negates the Council's own founding principles of non-selectivity and impartiality.

When he was UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon [criticized](#) this act of selectivity, voicing "disappointment at the council decision to single out Israel as the only specific regional item on its agenda, given the range and scope of allegations of human rights violations throughout the world."

The Bottom Line: Agenda Item 7 Must Be Removed

- Beyond not participating in the agenda item, Western democracies must demand the Council uphold the UN Charter's promise of equal treatment for all nations by removing Agenda Item 7.