



Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund
of Metropolitan Chicago



October 15, 2009

Consulate of France

Via Fax: 312-327-5201

Dear Consul General Main de Boissiere,

We would like to express our deep concerns over the discussions currently happening in the United Nations Human Rights Council in Genève over the Goldstone Report and the situation in Jerusalem.

This is the sixth time since the Council was restructured that it is being hijacked to specifically single out Israel. This body has become a forum which instead of fulfilling its mandate to address and defend the millions of people around the world facing actual human rights abuses, is manipulated to castigate and rebuke the State of Israel.

The mission was flawed from its inception, accusing Israel of war crimes before the "investigation" even began. That is why Mary Robinson refused to lead the delegation. She said:

As a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, I felt strongly that the Council's resolution was one-sided and did not permit a balanced approach to determining the situation on the ground. It referred only to "the grave violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly due to the recent Israeli military attacks," and called for a mission to investigate "all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the occupying power, Israel, against the Palestinian people.

I was also aware that the UN Human Rights Council had made repeated condemnations of Israel over the past two years but had focused little attention on large-scale violations of human rights in other countries. This pattern of action and inaction by the Council has given greater credence to those who believe the UN's highest human rights body is inherently anti-Israel.

Consul General, adoption of the report quite simply would reward terrorist organizations. It would send the message that terror groups that launch attacks against civilians from behind the shield of their own civilian populations will win immunity for the terrorists and prevent law-abiding states from defending their citizens. It would also undermine moderate Palestinians who are interested in peace with Israel, undercut the peace process and send a message that terrorism pays: democracies can be attacked and, when they defend themselves, they will be resolutely condemned. *If this report is granted legitimacy, the ability of all democracies to defend themselves in today's world will be severely jeopardized.*

Adoption of this report will also further erode the confidence of the Israeli public because, despite the launching of more than 8,000 rockets by Hamas, Israel is not given the right of self

defense. Israel went to great lengths to avoid harming innocent civilians, placing its own soldiers in danger. Where there is suspicion of wrong-doing by the military, criminal investigations by Israel's independent judiciary are already underway.

We therefore request that your diplomatic representative in Genève be advised:

- Not to endorse, but simply take note of the report,
- Insist that no operative clauses be attached,
- Reject any operative clauses moving out of the Human Rights Council to any other UN body.

As always, we are available to meet and discuss this and other issues with you in person.

Respectfully,



Steve Dishler
Director, International Affairs
Jewish Community
Relations Council of the
Jewish Federation
Of Metropolitan Chicago
312-357-4674



Lonnie Nasatir
Regional Director,
Anti-Defamation League
312-782-4925



Emily Soloff
Regional Director,
American Jewish
Committee
312-251-8800