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His Excellency Dr. Volker Türk
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson 52 rue des Pâquis CH-1202
Geneva, Switzerland

July 7, 2023

Dear High Commissioner Türk:

On behalf of the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM), I'm writing to bring to your attention the vitriolic rhetoric used by UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese to maliciously defame the State of Israel, including false war crimes claims against the IDF during its recent operation against terrorist organizations in the West Bank city of Jenin.

Special Rapporteur Albanese's demonizing language, such as her accusation that Israeli forces were responsible for "wanton destruction of civilian infrastructure, launch of tear gas against a hospital & hampering medical access to the wounded," abets the spread of misinformation and outright lies that often seep into mainstream media reporting.

This past Tuesday, for example, *BBC* anchorwoman Anjana Gadgil asserted in on-air remarks that Israeli soldiers were "*happy to kill children*," an invocation of the age-old blood libel that has incited mass violence against Jews over the centuries. Such remarks do not come from a vacuum – journalists take the words of UN officials as the truth.

Special Rapporteur Albanese's baseless and unhinged vilification of Israel also fuels antisemitic hatred and real-world threats endangering Jewish communities across the globe. Just earlier this year, CAM published a groundbreaking [report](#) highlighting a correlation between antisemitic rhetoric and physical attacks against Jews.

Not once has Special Rapporteur Albanese condemned the brutal and relentless [wave of Palestinian terrorism](#) that has targeted Israeli civilians in recent years. And the facts show that all Palestinian fatalities in Jenin this past week were combatants affiliated with internationally-recognized terrorist groups. The condemnation that Israel has received for this surgical counter-terror operation is proof that it is held to a standard applied to no other country in the world.

Here, it is worth noting that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism includes the example of "applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation."

Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese's obsessive disdain for Israel – including her comparisons of Israelis to Nazis, another example of antisemitism according to the IHRA definition – undermines the UN's welcome efforts to fight anti-Jewish bigotry.

Therefore, we urge you to immediately dismiss Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese from her position, as she has determinatively shown she cannot fulfill her mandate in good faith due to her lack of impartiality.

Thank you for your attention to this important and timely matter and your commitment to the collective effort against antisemitism, the world's oldest hatred.

Respectfully yours,



Sacha Roytman Dratwa
Chief Executive Officer
Combat Antisemitism Movement