Statement by PM Netanyahu on the UNHRC Commission of Inquiry Report

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Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/PressRoom/2015/Pages/Statement-by-PM-Netanyahu-on-the-UNHRC-Commission-of-Inquiry-report-22-Jun-2015.aspx

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, today (Monday, 22 June 2015), at the Knesset, issued the following statement:

"The report on Operation Protective Edge issued by the commission appointed by the UN Human Rights Council is biased. The commission that wrote this report was appointed by a council that calls itself the 'Human Rights Council.' In effect, it does everything but look after human rights. This is a body that condemns Israel more than Iran, Syria and North Korea combined. It first appointed to head the commission [a man who was caught inciting against the State of Israel and who also took money from the Palestinians](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/PressRoom/2015/Pages/PM-Netanyahu-on-the-resignation-of-William-Schabas-3-Feb-2015.aspx). It first began to investigate events in the region from the day after - the day after - the [kidnapping of the three youths, who were murdered](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Bring-back-our-boys-Eyal-Naftali-Gilad.aspx). It is on this basis that one needs to consider its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Israel is defending itself and is doing so in accordance with international law. We are not the only ones who say this. [Last week we issued a detailed, professional report that evaluated our actions, in accordance with international law, against terrorists that fire at civilians and hide behind civilians.](http://mfa.gov.il/ProtectiveEdge/Pages/default.aspx) This is also backed up by the [report issued by senior US and European generals](http://blog.unwatch.org/index.php/2015/06/12/key-findings-of-the-high-level-international-military-group-on-the-gaza-conflict/) who claimed, and reached the conclusion, that Israel defended itself in accordance with the standards of international law. But they say, 'above and beyond'. One of the senior generals said that there is no country that acted like the State of Israel and went beyond the letter of the law to observe international law.

Israel does not commit war crimes. Israel is defending itself from a murderous terrorist organization that calls for its destruction and which has perpetrated many war crimes. Any country that wants to live would have acted this way. But the commission expects a country, the citizens of which have been attacked by thousands of missiles, to sit idly by. We will not sit, and have not sat, idly by. We will continue to take strong and determined action against all those who try to attack us and our citizens, and we will do so in accordance with international law."

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued the following statement today (Monday, 22 June 2015):

"Israel is a democracy committed to the rule of law. Time and again it is forced to defend itself against Palestinian terrorists who commit a double war crime: They deliberately target civilians while deliberately hiding behind Palestinian civilians. The [Palestinian civilians they use as human shields include children](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/IsraelGaza2014/Pages/Hamas-civilians-human-shields.aspx), and they [deliberately target our civilians](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/IsraelGaza2014/Pages/Hamas-terror-rocket-threat.aspx) while deliberately putting their civilians in harm’s way.

In defending itself against such attacks, [Israel's military acted, and acts, according to the highest international standards](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/IsraelGaza2014/Pages/IDF-minimizes-civilian-casualties.aspx).

The report in hand was commissioned by a notoriously biased institution; it was given an obviously biased mandate; it was initially headed by a grossly biased chairperson who received money from the Palestinians and was forced to resign.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has a singular obsession with Israel. It has passed more resolutions against Israel than against Syria, North Korea and Iran combined. In fact, it has passed more resolutions against Israel that against all the countries of the world combined.

So, Israel treats this report as flawed and biased, and it urges all fair-minded observers to do the same. Such fair-minded observers recently investigated Israel’s conduct in the Gaza campaign. They include [senior generals from the United States and NATO countries](http://blog.unwatch.org/index.php/2015/06/12/key-findings-of-the-high-level-international-military-group-on-the-gaza-conflict/). They found that not only did Israel uphold the highest standards of international law, in the laws of armed conflict, they said that Israel exceeded the highest standards.

Israel will continue to uphold its commitment to the laws of armed conflict despite the brutal tactics of its enemies, and it will continue to [investigate any allegations of wrongdoing](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/IsraelGaza2014/Pages/IDF-investigation-of-incidents.aspx) in accordance with highest international standards."