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*Organizaci3n No Gubernamental con estatuto consultivo ante el ECOSOC y  
representaci3n permanente ante la ONU de Nueva York y Ginebra*

*Gianfranco Fortorini*

**General Assembly  
Human Rights Council  
29<sup>th</sup> session**

**Item 7 - Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

**Interactive dialogue with the Independent Commission of Inquiry (A/HRC/29/52)**

Mr. President,

The American Association of Jurists commends the members of the International Commission of Inquiry (ICI) for the report presented to the Council, despite the difficulties they faced in discharging their mandate. Once again, we firmly condemn the decision of the Israeli authorities not to cooperate with the mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council.

The ICI, in citing OCHA's report, underlines the disproportionate use of force by the Occupying Israeli Forces: the use of artillery and heavy weapons in residential neighborhoods; 6,000 airstrikes using precision-guided weapons. As a consequence, this caused the destruction of 18,000 housing units, 73 medical facilities, sources of the electricity and water networks and of the sanitation infrastructure; the displacement of 28% of the population; the death of 1,462 civilians and 11,231 injured.

In the context of the long-standing colonial occupation of the Palestinian territory by the State of Israel, the American Association of Jurists considers the blockade of the Gaza strip, imposed in 2007, as a major crime against humanity that has to be stopped immediately. Similarly, the American Association of Jurists considers the continuing implementation of the occupation policy of the Palestinian territory by the State of Israel, materialized by the continuous expansion of settlements, as a war crime that has to be stopped immediately.

For these reasons, the American Association of Jurists calls upon the United States of America to join consensus on the resolution submitted to the Council on this matter. We call upon all States to freeze all financial and technical military cooperation programs with Israel and to implement a "Boycott – Disinvestment – Sanctions" policy towards the occupier as called for by the Palestinian civil society.

I thank you for your attention.

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2015**