



Mission permanente d'Israël  
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies  
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל  
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות  
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

H.E. Mr. Joachim Ruecker  
President of the Human Rights Council  
Permanent Mission of Germany  
28C, chemin du Petit-Saconnex  
1209 Genève

Geneva, January 30 2015

Dear Mr. President,

We are in possession of evidence that the Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on the Gaza Conflict had a contractual relationship with the Palestinian side prior to his current assignment. We consider that this demonstrates incontrovertibly a blatant conflict of interest with respect to Mr. Schabas's role as head of the Commission of Inquiry on the Gaza Conflict (COI).

As you know, we were already of the view, along with other countries, that given Mr. Schabas's clear and documented bias against Israel, including on issues specifically related to the subject of his mandate, his initial appointment was completely improper and pointed to the one-sided, tainted and politicized nature of the Commission and its mandate.

Now it is clear that Mr. Schabas's continued tenure on the Commission is simply untenable and would violate the most basic principles of impartiality and fairness. Such shocking evidence of conflict of interest, if presented before any legal organ, whether national or international, or before any fair-minded observer, would be cause for immediate disqualification and dismissal of the person involved.

We therefore insist that you dismiss Mr. Schabas, with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely,

Eviatar Manor  
Permanent Representative of Israel

