

“ We the peoples of the United Nations
determined ... to reaffirm faith
in fundamental human rights,
in the dignity and worth of the human person,
in the equal rights of men and women
and of nations large and small...”

PREAMBLE TO THE UN CHARTER, SAN FRANCISCO, 1945

A Diminished World Body

AN OVERVIEW OF THE UN AND ISRAEL



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I. Who We Are – The American Jewish Committee

“The American Jewish Committee has been a significant presence at the United Nations from the beginning.” – UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

- “Inclusion of a human rights provision in the UN Charter was due to the brilliant leadership of the American Jewish Committee.” – Prof. James T. Shotwell of Columbia University. Former AJC Presidents Jacob Blaustein and Judge Joseph Proskauer played a pivotal role in ensuring inclusion of the human rights clauses in the UN Charter.
- Jacob Blaustein, former president of AJC, in a 1963 Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Lecture, first conceptualized the position of High Commissioner for Human Rights, which was finally implemented at the UN thirty years later.
- Felice Gaer, director of AJC's Jacob Blaustein Institute, became, in 1999, the first U.S. national elected to the UN Committee against Torture, a treaty monitoring committee.
- AJC has had NGO special consultative status before the UN Economic and Social Council since 1997.
- A number of former diplomats appointed to top U.S. posts in UN bodies served in AJC leadership positions, including former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Arthur Goldberg, former U.S. Ambassador to the UN in Geneva Morris Abram, former Deputy U.S. Representative to the UN Security Council Richard Schifter, and former U.S. Representatives to the Commission on Human Rights Rita Hauser, Philip Hoffman, and Jerry Shestack.



II. Israel and the UN

There have been more committees formed, more speeches made, more resolutions adopted, and more resources spent condemning Israel than on any other nation.

- The time devoted to debating and passing the resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict is disproportionate to any other situation in the world and thereby perpetuates the institutional bias against Israel at the UN.
- The United Nations, both in its New York and Geneva centers, hosts a number of bodies dedicated to preserving and advancing a one-sided view of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- Though Israel has remained a UN member in good standing since 1949, it is systematically discriminated against, contradicting the very principles upon which the UN was based.

The following pages illustrate some key examples of the UN's anti-Israel mechanisms.

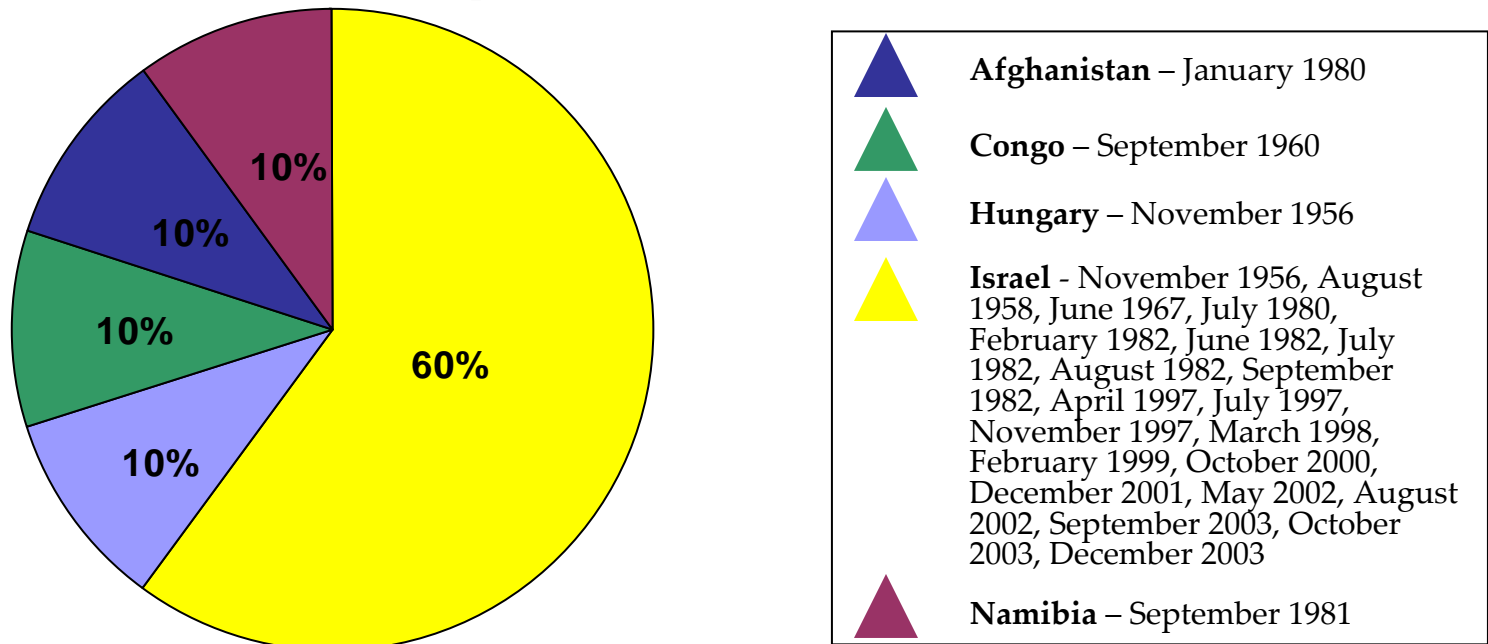


III. UN Institutional Bias

General Assembly Emergency Special Sessions

Six out of ten of all Emergency Special Sessions of the UN General Assembly have been devoted to criticizing Israel.

The Emergency Special Session was initially created in 1950 to call the General Assembly together to respond to the world's gravest security problems if the Security Council failed to act.



The 10th Emergency Special Session, moreover, has been called together twelve times. It is a permanent fixture, reconvened automatically by request of any member state, and used for political criticism of Israel – at times even while the General Assembly is in session.

III. UN Institutional Bias

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)

The CEIRPP is the only committee among the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly devoted to a single people.

Committee for the United Nations Population Award	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Committee on Information	Committee for Programme and Coordination
United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation	Committee on Relations with the Host Country
Committee on Conferences	Committee on Contributions
Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

III. UN Institutional Bias

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)

The CEIRPP's biased approach exacerbates the conflict rather than builds an environment of peace.

YEAR FOUNDED: 1975

BUDGET: \$60,800¹

CURRENT MEMBERS: Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba, Cyprus, Guinea, Guyana, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, and Ukraine

The program organized by CEIRPP entitled "United Nations Meeting in Support of Middle East Peace," held in July 2005, highlights just one example of the propaganda that the CEIPRR produces. Instead of working with the Israeli government and NGOs, participants of the program called for "boycotts, divestment and sanctions against...Israel."² They also agreed on the "need to push for a United Nations resolution to end all defense dealings with Israel."³ Despite the name of the program, these kinds of CEIRPP-sponsored meetings do nothing but inflame tensions.

[1] All budgets in this presentation are based on UN biennium budget 2004-2005 unless stated otherwise.

[2] UN Press Release GA/PAL/989, 07/13/05, www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/gapa1989.doc.htm

[3] UN Press Release GA/PAL/989, 07/13/05, www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/gapa1989.doc.htm

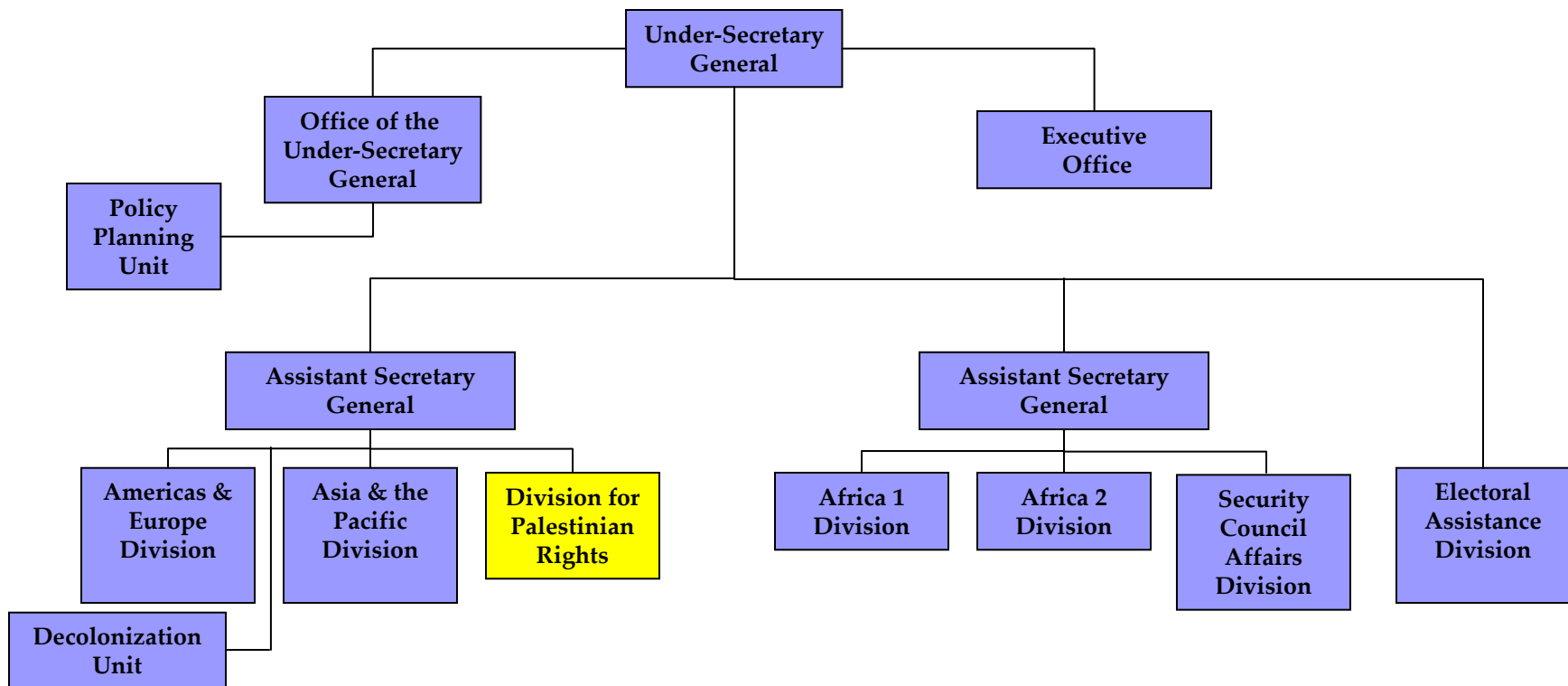


III. UN Institutional Bias

Division for Palestinian Rights (DPR)

The DPR is the only division in the Department of Political Affairs devoted to a single people.

Department of Political Affairs



III. UN Institutional Bias

Division for Palestinian Rights (DPR)

The DPR also exacerbates the conflict rather than builds an environment of peace.

YEAR FOUNDED: 1977

BUDGET: \$5,449,600 (compared, as an illustration, to \$1.1 million for the African Institute for Economic Development)

MANDATE: Prepares studies and publications on the issue of Palestinian rights and “promotes maximum publicity for them.” Convenes international meetings and conferences in all regions of the world. All of the activities of the DPR are “geared towards mobilizing public opinion in the regions in support of the Palestinian people.”¹ In practice, this amounts to an anti-Israel propaganda machine able to spread its message throughout the world.

The DPR, along with the CEIRPP, on November 29, 2005, in its annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (held on the same day in 1947 that the Palestinian people rejected the UN partition plan, which would have given the Palestinians their own state) convened a high-level meeting, which prominently displayed a map of the Middle East that blatantly excluded the entire State of Israel.

[1]<http://domino.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/22f431edb91c6f548525678a0051be1d/cbb4b10e7b190c818525704900595160!OpenDocument>

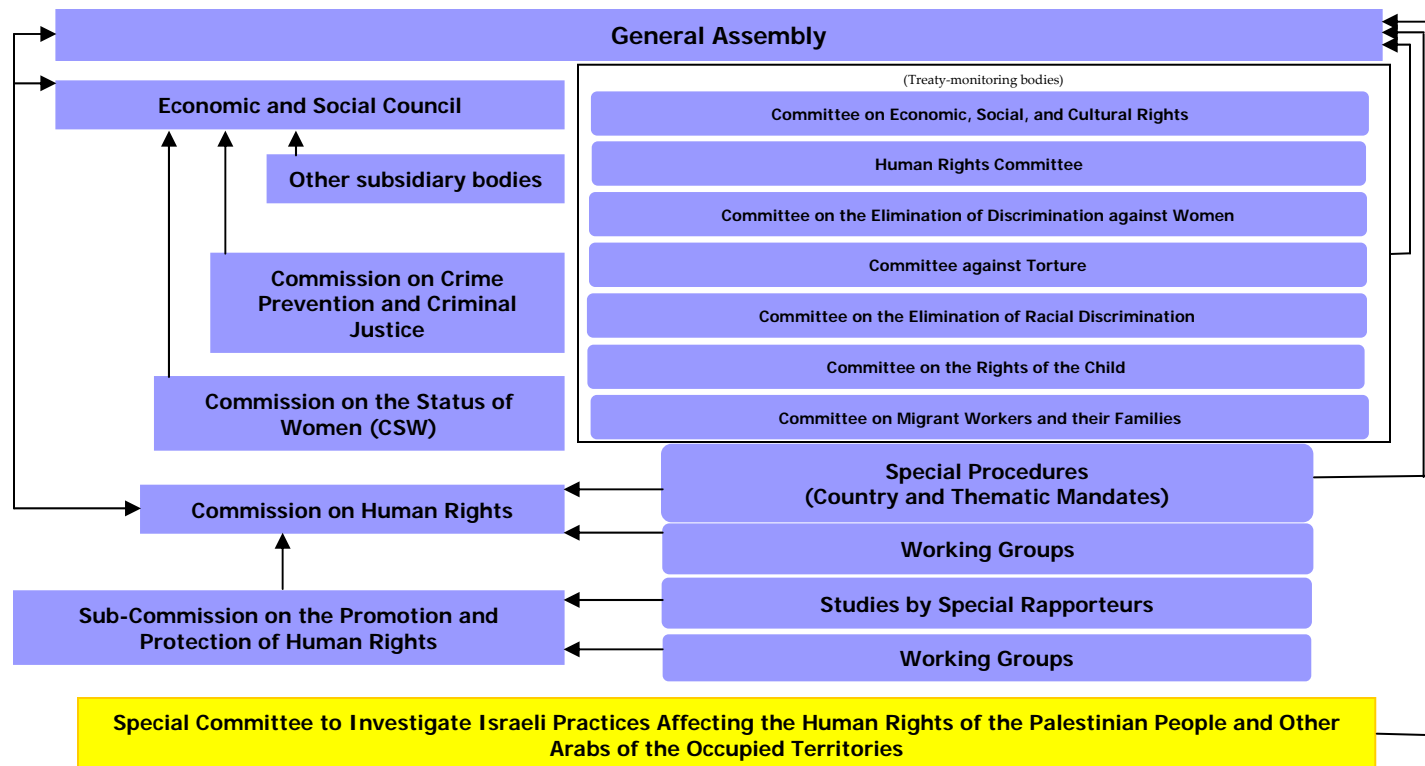


III. UN Institutional Bias

Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People

The Special Committee is the only separate committee in the GA's human rights structure devoted to a single people.

Human Rights Structure



III. UN Institutional Bias

Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People

The Special Committee's mandate is one-sided, viewing Israeli action in a vacuum and ignoring Israeli suffering.

YEAR FOUNDED: 1968

BUDGET: \$254,500

PERMANENT MEMBERS: Sri Lanka, Senegal, Malaysia

MANDATE: Investigate Israeli practices affecting the Palestinian people

The Committee's annual report this year (A/60/380) – which presented a meticulous description of every detail of Palestinian problems, even including the number of trees that the Israeli Defense Force has allegedly cut down – does not mention, even once, any Palestinian suicide bombings or other acts of premeditated violence against innocent men, women, and children. The Special Committee is not mandated to examine anything beyond Israeli action.



III. UN Institutional Bias

United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)

The Commission has a history of making biased decisions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

YEAR FOUNDED: 1946

MANDATE: This 53-member body sits in Geneva for six weeks in March and April to “examine, monitor and publicly report either on human rights situations in specific countries or territories or on major phenomena of human rights violations worldwide.”¹

The Commission suffers from marked internal problems and contradictions. Its membership has included notorious abusers of human rights – such as Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. And in 2003, Libya, one of the most egregious human rights abusers, chaired the Commission. Recently, a reform panel of eminent persons from eighteen countries appointed by the Secretary-General referred to the Commission’s **“eroding credibility and professionalism....The Commission on Human Rights suffers from a legitimacy deficit** that casts doubts on the overall reputation of the United Nations.”²

While Israel has not served on the Commission since 1970, it is continuously and unfairly condemned by it; during the 2005 session, for example, nearly a quarter of the entire debate focused on Israel.

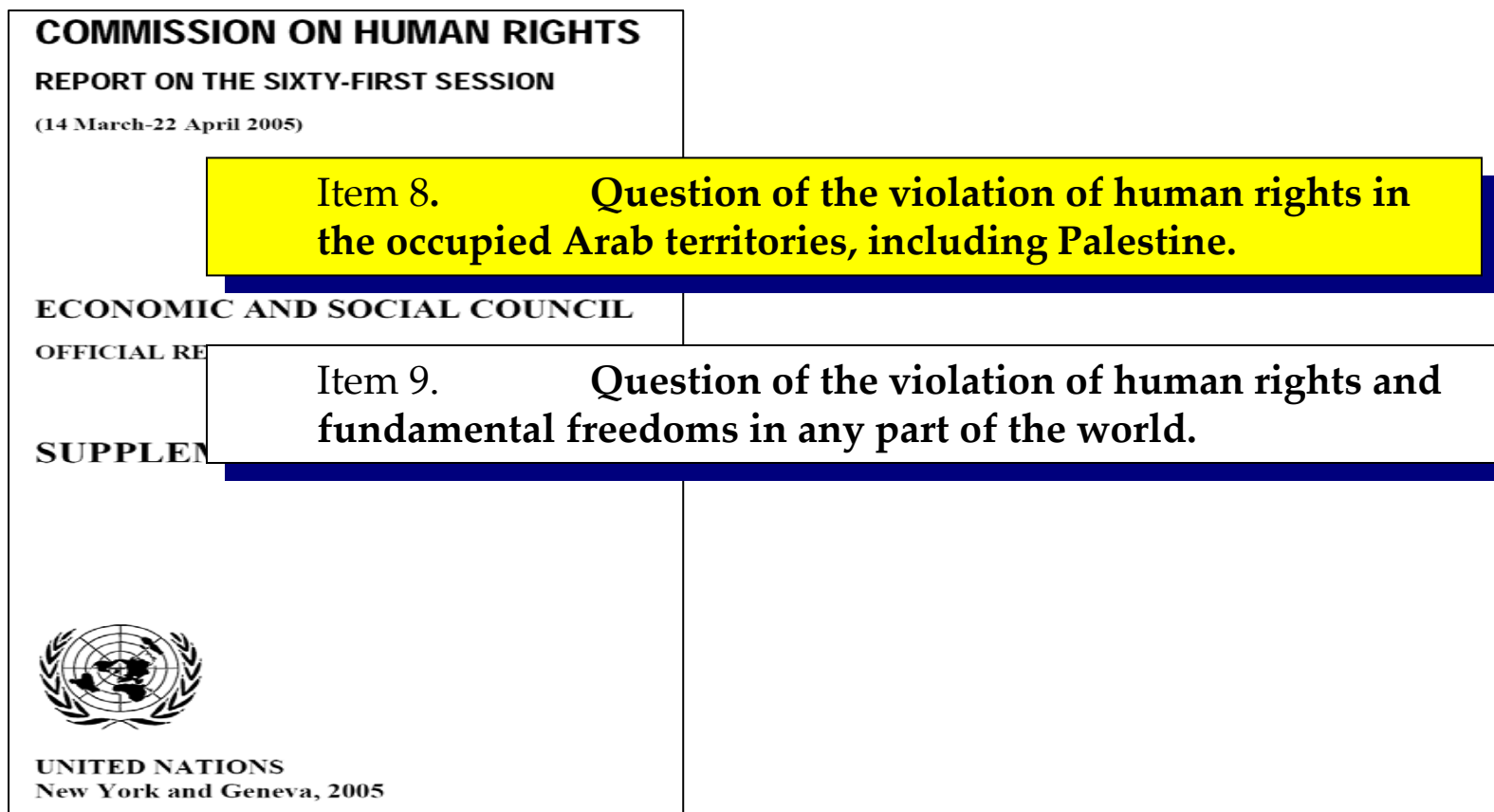
[1] <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/background.htm>

[2] UN General Assembly. A more secure world: our shared responsibility. Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. 3 December 2004, p.64 (A/59/565).

III. UN Institutional Bias

United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)

The Commission has a separate agenda item focusing solely on alleged violations by Israel. No other country has an agenda item exclusively scrutinizing it.

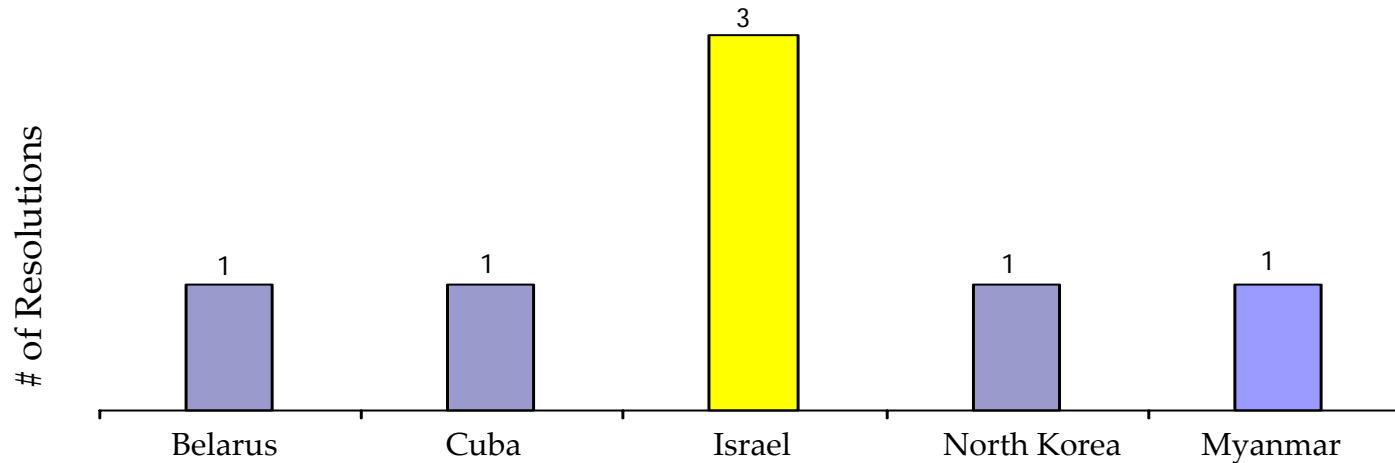


III. UN Institutional Bias

United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)

At the Commission, Israel receives disproportionate attention and the harshest condemnation of any other country.

Country-Specific Resolutions (from agenda item 8 and 9) per Country in 2005



In country-specific resolutions, Israel was condemned more than any other country. Meanwhile, states known as egregious human rights violators – like Iran and Sudan – evaded explicit condemnation.

III. UN Institutional Bias

United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)

The Commission criticizes Israel for allegedly denying principles Israel already affirms.

Item 5. **The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation.**

Though Israel has recognized the Palestinian right to self-determination – including, specifically, a Palestinian state alongside Israel – the Commission adopted yet another resolution against Israel in 2005 under agenda item 5. Meanwhile, the Commission ignored virtually all of the other peoples claiming self-determination.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT ON THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
(14 March-22 April 2005)

SUPPLEMENT No. 3



UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 2005



III. UN Institutional Bias

Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967

Several Special Rapporteurs unfairly demonize Israel.

NAME: John Dugard

MANDATE: Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967



Dugard's reports consistently and deliberately omit any word about Palestinian terrorism, corruption or incitement. As Israel was about to withdraw from Gaza in the summer of 2005 – a step viewed by the world community as consequential – Dugard issued a statement objecting to the negotiations occurring under the Road Map to peace.

Unlike nearly all other mandates, which are reviewed annually, the Special Rapporteur on Palestine's continues "until the end of the Israeli occupation"¹ without expiration.

[1] <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/countries.htm>

III. UN Institutional Bias

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Several Special Rapporteurs unfairly demonize Israel.

NAME: Jean Ziegler

MANDATE: Special Rapporteur on the right to food



Ziegler, who was nominated to his position by Fidel Castro and Moammar Khaddafi, and who founded the “Moammar Khadaffi Human Rights Prize” in 1989 (and then won it in 2002), has systematically neglected his mandate on world hunger in order to advance his radical anti-Israel agenda. While the West Bank and Gaza have never ranked anywhere on the UN list of countries facing food emergencies, in 2003, it was the only region in the world visited by Ziegler, whose vitriolic report accused Israel of “state terrorism,” language he reserves only for Israel. Contrary to UN rules and responsibility, Ziegler has also been using his UN office to run a boycott campaign against Israel, urging the European Union and major corporations to cut trade with Israel. He has never launched a campaign against Sudan or any other country. While he repeatedly weighs in on the situation in the Palestinian territories, countries such as Burundi, with staggering malnutrition, fail to merit a word from Ziegler.

Ziegler frequently depicts Israel in Nazi terms. Most recently, in a Geneva speech delivered prior to Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza, he referred to the area as a “huge concentration camp.”¹

[1] *Le Courier*. <http://www.lecourrier.ch/modules.php?op=modload&name=NewsPaper&file=article&sid=39829&mod=thread&order=0&thold=0>

III. UN Institutional Bias

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

There are two UN agencies dealing with refugees, one for Palestinians, UNRWA, and one for everyone else, UNHCR. The descendants of Palestinian refugees are still considered refugees, whereas the descendants of all other refugees are not.

	UNRWA – United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ESTABLISHED	1949 as a “temporary agency” ¹	1950
DEFINITION OF REFUGEE	“A [Palestine] refugee also covers the descendants of persons who became refugees in 1948.” ²	“The term refugee is a very specific definition covering only people who have fled their homeland...” ³

In 1949, UNRWA numbered 860,000 refugees. As a result of this singular definition, that number has increased to 4.2 million today.

[1] <http://www.un.org/unrwa/overview/qa.html>

[2] <http://www.un.org/unrwa/refugees/whois.html>

[3] <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/basics/opendoc.htm?tbl=BASICS&id=420cc0432>

III. UN Institutional Bias

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHCR resolves refugee problems by including the option of resettlement. UNRWA, because of its singular mandate, deliberately avoids resettling Palestinian refugees, keeping them refugees indefinitely. Refugee camps become incubators for instilling hatred against Israel and for recruiting members of anti-Israel terrorist groups.

	UNRWA – United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
MANDATE	<i>“To carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees”¹</i>	<i>“To lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide”² (emphasis added)</i>

UNRWA even bankrolls members of militant groups dedicated to destroying Israel.³

[1] <http://www.un.org/unrwa/allegations/index.html>

[2] <http://www.un.org/unrwa/index.html>

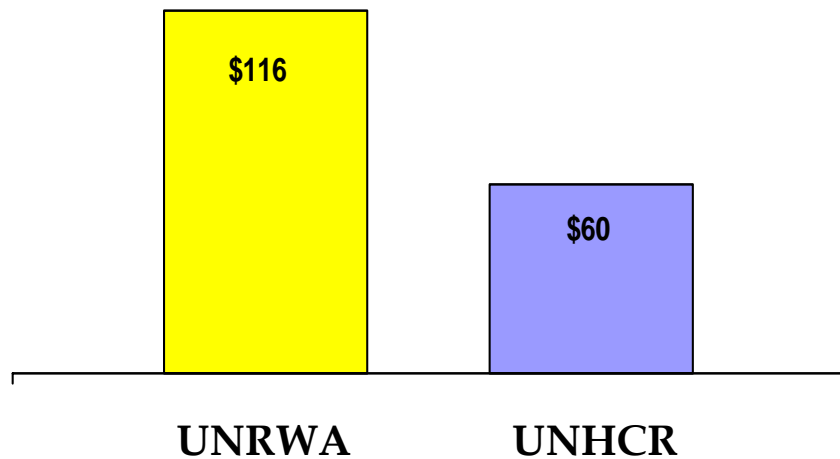
[3] Interview with Peter Hansen, Director of UNRWA, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 10/4/05

III. UN Institutional Bias

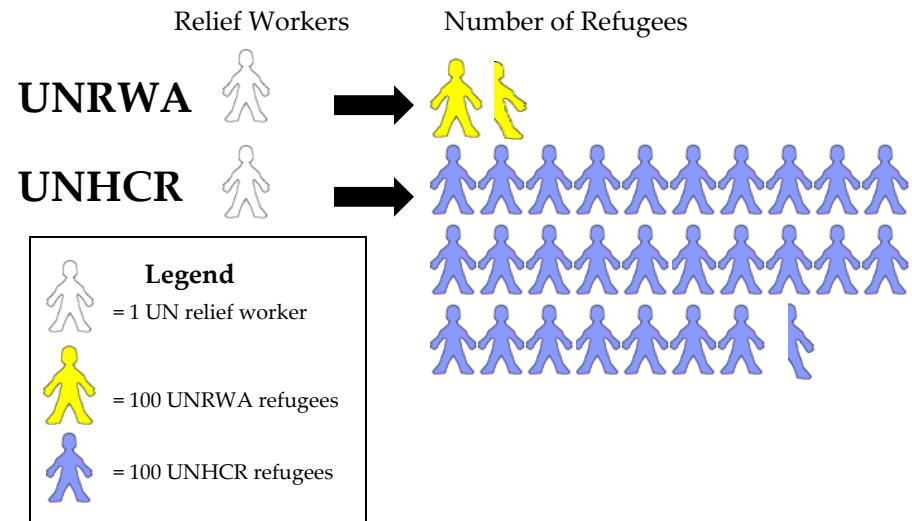
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Palestinian refugees receive more UN personnel and more funding per capita than all other refugees.¹

Per Capita Spending on UN Refugees (in U.S. Dollars)



Per Capita UN Personnel Allocated per Refugee Agency



[1] Drawn from the respective agency websites. In 2006, UNHCR will allocate \$1,147,297,000 and 7,031 relief workers for its 19.2 million refugees (<http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/excom/opendoc.pdf?tbl=EXCOM&id=431e9a222>) and UNRWA will allocate \$489 million and 24,324 relief workers for its 4.2 million refugees (http://www.un.org/unrwa/news/statements/pledging_conference_dec05.html and <http://www.un.org/unrwa/overview/qa.html#a>).

III. UN Institutional Bias

General Assembly Resolutions against Israel

While Israel was condemned in 18 separate resolutions during the General Assembly's 60th session, the most resolutions against any other country was one, if that. Indeed, a country like Sudan avoided any censure despite its central role in the ongoing Darfur tragedy.¹

60/36 Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

60/37 Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

60/38 Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

60/39 Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine

60/40 The Syrian Golan

60/41 Jerusalem

60/92 The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East

60/100 Assistance to Palestinian Refugees

60/101 Persons Displaced as a Result of the June 1967 and Subsequent Hostilities

60/102 Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East

60/103 Palestine Refugees' Properties and Their Revenues

60/104 Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the

Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

60/105 Applicability of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and Other Occupied Arab Territories

60/106 Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including Jerusalem and the Occupied Syrian Golan

60/107 Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Territory Including East Jerusalem

60/108 The Occupied Syrian Golan

60/146 The Right of the Palestinian People to Self-Determination

60/183 Permanent Sovereignty of the Palestinian People over their Natural Resources

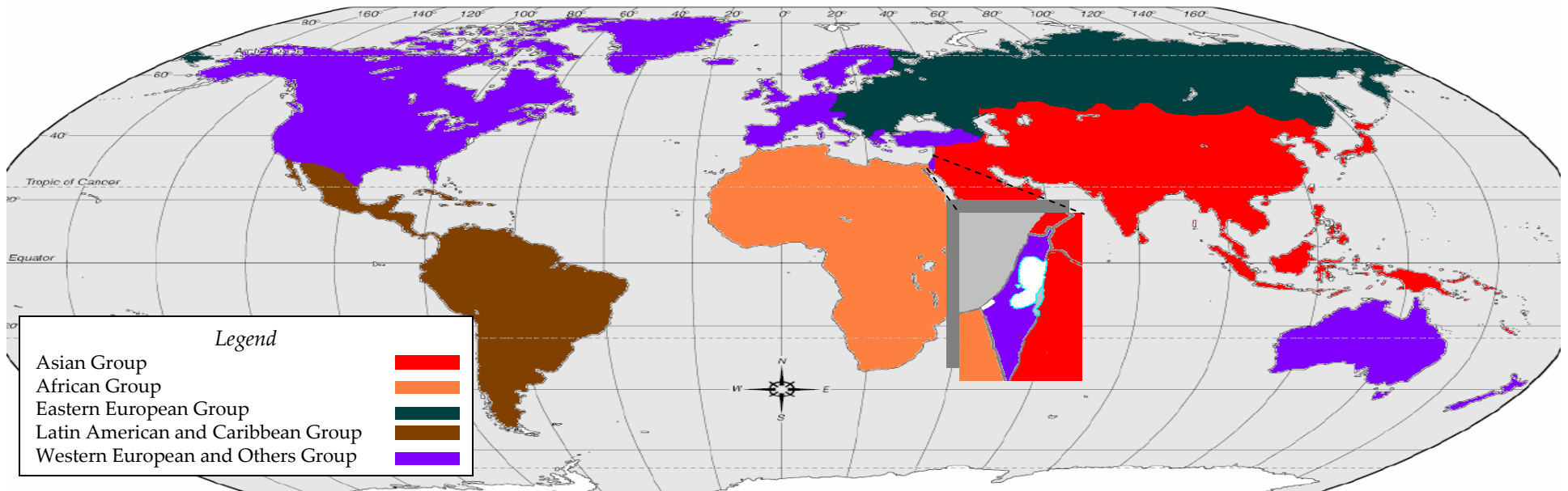
[1] From www.un.org/Depts/dh/resguide/r60.htm

IV. UN Institutional Bias

Regional Discrimination

Israel is omitted from full participation in the UN's work

UN members are divided into five regional groups for nominating candidates to UN bodies and for consultation on resolutions. Though long the only nation denied entry into any regional group, Israel was recently temporarily permitted to join the Western European and Others Group – WEOG. WEOG is not Israel's "natural" home; however, its neighbors in the Asian Group refuse Israel's entry. WEOG, moreover, only meets in New York, leaving Israel without consultative partners in UN centers in Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna.



V. Some Recent Developments

While there is still much to do, as a result of its WEOG membership, Israel has made some progress towards full participation in the UN.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ON UN BODIES

- In June 2005, Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Dan Gillerman, was elected one of the twenty-one new vice presidents of the General Assembly, the first time Israel has held that position in more than half a century.
- In July 2005, Israel was elected to deputy chairmanship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). It has also become a member of the Governing Councils of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), as well as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
- Through its WEOG membership in New York, Israel has placed a bid for a seat in the Security Council for 2018. Since it gained membership in 1949, Israel has never sat on the Security Council.



V. Some Recent Developments

INTERNAL RECOGNITION OF THE PROBLEM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST

- In June 2004, the UN held its first Department of Public Information Seminar on Anti-Semitism. At that conference, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, “The United Nations' record on anti-Semitism has at times fallen short of our ideals.” He stated that “Jews everywhere must feel that the United Nations is their home, too.”¹
- On Monday, January 24, 2005, the UN General Assembly (GA) convened a Special Session to commemorate the liberation of the Nazi death camps. Elie Wiesel was the first Holocaust survivor in the UN's history to be invited to address the GA and share his experiences.
- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, speaking at the March 2005 opening of the new Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Israel, said, “A United Nations that fails to be at the forefront of the fight against anti-Semitism and other forms of racism denies its history and undermines its future. That obligation binds us to the Jewish people, and to the State of Israel, which rose, like the United Nations itself, from the ashes of the Holocaust.”²
- In October 2005, the GA adopted a resolution creating an annual International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust to be observed on January 27 and called for member states to develop educational programs on the Holocaust. Israel introduced the resolution, its first successful resolution ever in the GA, and 110 other countries co-sponsored it.

[1] UN Press Release: HR/4773 PI/1589 - <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/hr4773.doc.htm>

[2] <http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=1350>



VI. An Agenda for Change: Where to Begin

The American Jewish Committee, having played a key role in including the concept of human rights in the United Nation's Charter, and as a consistent supporter of the UN ideal, deeply cares about the United Nations' credibility. But as this report has demonstrated, Israel is singled out at the UN and treated differently than all other nations. This institutional bias undermines the UN and diverts needed attention from some of the most neglected and pressing global challenges.

Some immediate steps that could be taken to rectify the situation include:

- End the automatic renewal of the 10th Emergency Special Session of the GA.
- Immediately end support of the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices in the Occupied Territories.
- Eliminate agenda item 8 of the Commission on Human Rights that segregates Israel from the rest of the world.
- Ensure Israel's full participation in a regional group in every UN center.

In sum, treat Israel exactly as called for by the UN Charter, **“equal rights of ... nations large and small...”**

Researched and written by Maxine Kaye, Senior Assistant to the Executive Director, and Zev Nagel, Senior Fellow, American Jewish Committee.

Conceived and supervised by David A. Harris, Executive Director, American Jewish Committee.

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*The Jacob Blaustein Building
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