Commission Presents Protective Edge Report at UN

June 29, 2015

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YNet News

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4673949,00.html>

The United Nation's international investigation [commission's report](http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4671512,00.html) on Operation Protective Edge was submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday, with hundreds of pro-Israel activists expected to arrive outside.

While the council was to debate the report on Monday, voting on it will likely not occur until later this week.

The report by the commission, which was headed by Mary McGowan-Davis, accused both Israel and the Palestinian terror organizations in the Gaza Strip of grave abuses of international humanitarian law.

The commission determined that one third of Gaza dead during Protective Edge were children and urged both sides to cooperate with International Criminal Court investigations. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the report biased.

The shape of the draft resolution that will be brought to vote is still unclear, and recent days have seen behind-the-scenes efforts to forge a solid proposal. Pakistan was set to present -- in the name of the council's Islamic bloc -- a proposal to adopt the report and send it to an international body such as the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretary General, or the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Israel believes the proposal will pass a vote and support a mechanism to monitor its application. Jerusalem and its allies have already declared their opposition to any formulation that calls for putting the report before the Security Council.

Israel has asked members of the Human Rights Council to oppose the report or least refrain from voting. Israel will not participate in the debate, but Israel's ambassador in Geneva, Eviatar Manor, will hold a press conference about it.

Last week, the Foreign Ministry launched a diplomatic campaign aimed at convincing as many of the 47 council members as possible to vote against the report of the investigative commission's report.

The Foreign Ministry's European Deputy Director-General Aviv Shir-On urged his staff to convince the European representatives to voice opposition to the report and the framework in which it was created. He stressed on the commission's "distorted" authority and its generally negative attitude towards Israel.

During the Human Rights Council's debate a demonstration of about 600 thousand pro-Israel activists who came to Geneva from various European countries will take place outside UN headquarters there.

Dozens of pro-Israel and American and European Jews are taking part in organizing the demonstration. "Our goal is to ensure physical visibility of pro-Israel activists in front of the UN and the international media," said Tzvi Avisar, director of Over the Rainbow -- the Zionist movement sponsoring and organizing the demonstration.

Leaders of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations from around the world, as well as representatives from towns in the Gaza envelope are expected at the demonstration.

Alongside the council's debate, two pro-Israel organizations -- NGO Monitor and UN Watch -- will hold expert panels that will analyze the report from a military standpoint, the issue of international justice and the structure of international terrorist groups. The panel will include various experts to provide other perspectives on the UN report.