



B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

May 17, 2010

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Your Excellency:

We are writing to you to appeal for your public condemnation of United Nations General Assembly President Ali Abdussalam Treki's reported assertion that Gaza faces conditions "worse" than those of Holocaust victims, and his latest legitimization of terrorism.

In remarks broadcast on Syrian television on April 11, translated and publicized by the Middle East Media Research Institute last week, Dr. Treki was quoted as saying: "The siege on Gaza is a disgrace for the entire international community. It is a camp that is worse than the camps of the Nazis in the past." Dr. Treki's comments are an outrage, a blight upon the United Nations and his high office, and an impediment to historical truth and to peace. Resolution 60/7, of November 2005, said that the General Assembly (emphasis added):

Bearing in mind that the founding principle of the Charter of the United Nations, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war", is testimony to the indelible link between the United Nations and the unique tragedy of the Second World War... Rejects any denial of the Holocaust as an historical event, either in full or part... [and] Condemns without reserve all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief, wherever they occur.

With his deplorable remarks, Dr. Treki has effectively violated this solemn, critical resolution of the General Assembly. Assuming he has in mind the cautious, long-delayed counterterrorism efforts in which Israel was forced to engage between December 2008 and January 2009, is Dr. Treki suggesting that just over 1,000 Jews were killed – and not six million, along with tens of millions of others – by the Nazis? Is he suggesting that German, and Polish, and Hungarian Jews had pledged the destruction of some country, and themselves engaged in terrorist warfare, the way Hamas, which continues to control Gaza, does? Or is he suggesting that the Palestinian people – who have been offered a state coexisting

alongside Israel, and who have already been afforded autonomy, territorial concessions, ongoing humanitarian provisions, and incomparable financial investment and political solidarity from abroad – suffer barbaric medical experiments, gas chambers, mass cremation and other components of genuine, systematic genocide?

In his Syrian television interview, the General Assembly president also said: “The resistance that exists is undoubtedly legitimate, by any international standard. This is resistance against the occupation of land. The serious resistance in Lebanon forced the Israelis to withdraw. There is great resistance of the Palestinian people, in occupied Palestine, in general, and in Gaza, in particular. This ongoing resistance annoys the Israelis, and it has the right to persist until the Israelis fulfill their obligations, and until the Palestinian people are given the right to determine its destiny and establish its state.”

The conflation of these two statements is telling and doubly saddening. The entire international community – beginning with this city that hosts the United Nations – knows by now that terrorism, often motivated by extremist political aims disguised in a quasi-religious conception of justice, is a paramount scourge and threat to humanity. Does Dr. Treki actually consider legitimate, as “resistance [that] annoys the Israelis,” the indiscriminate firing of rockets at kindergartens and the intentional detonation of suicide bombers on commuter buses – simply because most of the targets are Jews, and even though these very acts, and their ramifications, are the ones that cause harm to Palestinian and Lebanese non-combatants? Dr. Treki says that Hezbollah's “resistance in Lebanon forced the Israelis to withdraw.” Indeed, Israel has unilaterally, and fully, removed its presence from both Gaza and the previous security buffer in southern Lebanon – yet these withdrawals were followed by the kind of destructive and debased gloating that Dr. Treki demonstrates, as well as new terrorist offensives. Does Dr. Treki believe that his encouragement of such “resistance” will bring peace and security to the Middle East, and the world?

Dr. Treki said in his interview that “[t]he world must uphold its responsibility.” With this we agree. Dr. Treki must be reminded by world leaders – publicly and unequivocally – that he has been entrusted with serving all members of the United Nations General Assembly, not only those who sponsor or approve of terrorism. He must be reminded that incitement, dangerous falsehoods and apathy over violent atrocity of the kinds he has promoted will confirm him as profoundly unfit for his post.

Sincerely,

Dennis W. Glick
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President