

Mr. President,

Although some might assume that this Council's decisions are impartial, we know that this is a *political* body, in which self-interest guides voting and rights abusers sit in judgment of those with more admirable records.

No country is perfect, but Israel alone stands as a democracy in the Middle East, a bastion of global humanitarianism.

It is Israel that is characterized by pluralism – with Arab citizens serving in government, women achieving high office, the Christian minority growing and civil liberties upheld.

It is Israel that despite surviving multiple wars has extended unparalleled offers and sacrifices for peace, repeatedly seeing these followed by yet more terrorism.

It is Israel that has preserved religious freedom in Jerusalem, while going so far as to maintain Islamic administration of the Temple Mount, the single holiest place in Judaism.

It is Israel that has seen Palestinians increase by *millions* even as the Jewish population of Arab lands has plunged from 850,000 to barely 4,000.

It is Israel that, despite unending threats of its annihilation, has caused far fewer Arab fatalities over 70 years than the war in Syria has in just seven.

Yet this Council has subjected only one side of one conflict – the world's only Jewish state, with a population of fewer than 10 million and a size half that of Switzerland – to more condemnation than all *other* states, with a standing agenda item on this democracy alone.

Mr. President, such a reality is not an indictment of Israel. It is an indictment of this Council.

Thank you, Mr. President.