

MEMMO

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The U.N. Again Demonstrates Incapacity to Promote Israeli-Palestinian Peace

On Nov. 30, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) condemned Israel in six separate resolutions. Coming a day after the annual U.N.-declared “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People,” the U.N. once again disqualified itself from any constructive role in promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace. Instead, its actions perpetuate an anti-Israel environment that discourages constructive Israeli-Palestinian engagement and the direct talks necessary to reach a just and lasting peace agreement.

On Nov. 30, the U.N. General Assembly passed six one-sided, biased resolutions that assault Israel rather than promote peace.

- The resolutions repeatedly attack Israel and exclusively blame it for the absence of peace. The resolutions largely ignore ongoing Palestinian terrorism and incitement to violence.
- Three of the resolutions call for the continued operation of dedicated U.N. agencies whose sole purpose is the distribution of anti-Israel propaganda.
- One resolution calls for Israel to transfer control of the Golan Heights to the Assad regime in Syria. That regime has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of its own citizens.
- A separate resolution condemns Israeli actions in Jerusalem and refers to the Temple Mount only by its Muslim names, ignoring the site’s Jewish and Christian significance.



PA President Mahmoud Abbas seeks a one-sided, anti-Israel solution imposed by the United Nations.

U.N. actions illustrate its institutionalized anti-Israel prejudice.

- On Nov. 8, UNGA committees passed ten one-sided resolutions condemning Israel. And during its 2015-2016 session, the UNGA passed 20 resolutions singling out and criticizing Israel—more than the rest of the world combined.
- In October, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) passed two resolutions that ignored the historic connection of Jews and Christians to the Temple Mount, referring to the area exclusively by its Muslim names (the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Haram Al-Sharif).
- On May 25, the World Health Organization singled out and accused Israel as the only country responsible for “mental, physical and environmental health” abuses by its alleged actions in the West Bank and Gaza..

- The U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has passed more resolutions singling out Israel for condemnation—including five anti-Israel resolutions last March—than the rest of the world combined
- Item seven—the only UNHRC agenda item dedicated to a specific people—requires that the Palestinian issue be raised at every meeting.

These U.N. actions undermine prospects for peace; direct, bilateral talks are the most viable path to an enduring two-state solution.

- A peace agreement will only work if both parties enter it willingly, feel vested in the talks, and intend to implement the outcome. Without buy-in from the two parties and the publics they represent, no accord will be viable.
- U.N. actions recognizing Palestinian demands at Israel's expense only encourage Palestinian obstinacy and their continued refusal to return to the negotiating table.
- As President Barack Obama said during his March 2013 trip to Israel: "There is no question that the only path to peace is through negotiations—which is why...the United States will oppose unilateral efforts to bypass negotiations through the United Nations. It has to be done by the parties."
- In December 2014, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power reiterated this message in her explanation of the United States' opposition to a one-sided, anti-Israel UNSC resolution. Power said, "Peace will come from hard choices and compromises that must be made at the negotiating table."

The United States should continue to oppose biased U.N. resolutions while pressing the Palestinians to return to direct talks with Israel.

- Direct, bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians represent the best path for achieving a durable two-state solution—a Jewish state of Israel living in peace and security side by side with a demilitarized Palestinian state.
- The United States should reinforce long-standing American practice—as it did in 2011—to veto any U.N. Security Council resolution that seeks to bypass direct negotiations and impose a solution on the two parties.
- The United States should remain committed to the principles that guided previous successful negotiations:
 - Talks must be direct and bilateral.
 - A solution cannot be imposed on the parties.
 - Both sides must be willing to make key compromises.
 - Disagreements should be resolved privately.
 - The United States must support and work closely with Israel.