



The Goldstone Report

When the Goldstone Report was issued on September 15, it would have been easy to dismiss it as another example of the U.N.'s decades-long animus against Israel. But the report requires closer scrutiny than any of the hundreds of non-binding anti-Israel resolutions that have passed the General Assembly, where the world's non-democratic regimes and the Islamic bloc have an instant majority to condemn Israel.

Even a cursory reading of the Goldstone Report reveals that the U.N. fact-finding mission gave Hamas the benefit of any doubt and discarded evidence that would have supported Israel's position. Col. Richard Kemp, the former commander of British forces in Afghanistan, explained Israel's methods in Gaza. "The truth is that the IDF took extraordinary measures to give Gaza civilians notice of targeted areas, dropping over two million leaflets, and making over 100,000 phone calls. Many missions that could have taken out Hamas military capability were aborted to prevent civilian casualties. During the conflict, the IDF allowed huge amounts of humanitarian aid into Gaza. To deliver aid virtually into your enemy's hands is, to the military tactician, normally quite unthinkable." Kemp concluded: "[T]he IDF did more to safeguard the rights of civilians in a combat zone than any other army in the history of warfare."

The accusations of the Goldstone Report underscore the larger issue, that Israel's legitimacy has been under attack for more than 61 years. Whether through conventional warfare, terrorism or – as is the case here – Israel's detractors are constantly looking for new ways to isolate the Jewish State. This crusade will continue in March when the U.N. Human Rights Council will meet to decide if Israel should be sanctioned for alleged war crimes.

Who in the world supports Israel against those who wish it harm? There is only one consistent answer: the United States. The Obama administration has voiced its serious concerns about the Goldstone Report. After voting against the General Assembly resolution in support of the report, Alejandro Wolff, deputy U.S. ambassador to the U.N., explained why. "[W]e believe that the Goldstone Report is deeply flawed – including its unbalanced focus on Israel, its sweeping conclusions of law, the excessively negative inferences it draws about Israel's intentions and actions, its failure to deal adequately with the asymmetrical nature of the Gaza conflict, its failure to assign appropriate responsibility to Hamas for its decision to base itself and its operations in heavily civilian-populated urban areas, and its many overreaching recommendations," Wolff said.

U.S. support does not just come from the administration, but from the legislative branch as well. In fact, the United States Congress overwhelmingly resolved to stand with Israel and against the Goldstone Report – by a vote of 344 to 36 in the House of Representatives.

As we await the U.N. Human Rights Council's meeting we must thank our Congressional representatives for the stand they took in November, and encourage them to make sure that no further harm comes from this one-sided report.

The events surrounding the release of the Goldstone Report reaffirm a fundamental reality. Without the support of the U.S., especially in the U.N. Security Council, Israel would be in serious danger. Bias against Israel in the United Nations is a fact. Luckily, so is the strength of the U.S.-Israel alliance.