

The United Nations' Commission of Inquiry & Its Persecution of Israel

In May 2021, directly after the violence escalated between Israel and Hamas, the United Nations' Human Rights Council (UNHRC) voted to create an unprecedented, open-ended international investigation into Israel's treatment of Palestinians – the United Nations' Commission of Inquiry (COI).

Israel isn't on the global worst-human-rights-violations list, but it's continually condemned by the UN Human Rights Council. It's also the only nation that the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) has subjected to an open-ended inquiry.

The Background

COI is the latest offense in the UNHRC's chronicle of anti-Israel actions. Even former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Anan said this regarding UNHRC's anti-Israel bias in 2006: "Since the beginning of their work, they have focused almost entirely on Israel."¹ Fifteen years later, the creation of COI takes that prejudice even further.

An open-ended investigation like COI has never been instigated against any other UN member state. Just Israel—the only Jewish state. All others, like those that have been launched against Syria, the Taliban's Afghanistan, & Myanmar, have to be renewed each year.

The Issue

In addition to being ongoing, COI isn't limited to hostilities in Gaza and the West Bank. It's directed to examine "all underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability, and protraction of conflict" – possibly going back to Israel's very founding and stretching into an indeterminate future.

What does this mean? First and most immediately, the continuation of isolating Israel from the international community and its governing bodies; second and more long-term, the findings of this biased inquiry will provide considerable justification for supporters of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, to demonize and delegitimize Israel – significantly, broadening their impact.

The clear and present danger

The COI opens up the door to nothing less than the destruction of the Jewish State. There's no denying that global antisemitism is on the rise. There's also no denying that the UN is making matters worse. Excessive, relentless condemnation of the world's only Jewish state isn't just discriminatory it's dangerous. The so-called evidence reported by the COI to further the BDS agenda, most harmfully the Palestinian "right of return" and the disestablishment of Israel as the Jewish State.



The door to far-reaching, anti-Israel actions now opens even wider

In less than a year since the establishment of the COI, many more anti-Israel resolutions have been passed. During the 49th UNHRC session, which met in March 2022, resolutions called on Israel to do the following:

- Remove the security fence protecting Israelis from terrorist attacks.
- Unilaterally withdraw to pre-1967 lines, including ceding East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.
- Effect an arms embargo against Israel – further isolating the Jewish State and weakening its defenses.

The need to amplify the truth

Israel deserves equal treatment – nothing more, nothing less. Instead, Israel is being increasingly vilified in the public eye, which is dangerous not only for the Jewish State but for Jews everywhere. Each of us must continue to educate ourselves and others, and shine a light on the double standards and hypocrisy. Start conversations and keep them going both within the Jewish community and with communities we seek to build bridges with. Keep learning. Keep communicating. And stay tuned for further recommendations and actionable steps to counteract the COI.

