



# The UN Human Rights Council Buries Human Rights Abuses and Discriminates Against Israel

## Purpose of the United Nations (UN):

- Promote human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide
- Maintain international peace and security
- Develop friendly relations among nations
- Cooperate in solving international economic, social, and humanitarian problems

## Purpose of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

- Be “responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.”<sup>1</sup>

## Most UN & UNHRC Members are Dictatorships That Systemically Abuse Human Rights:

- Nearly 56% of all countries surveyed by the Democracy Index are non-democracies
- 68% of the UNHRC’s members are non-democracies<sup>2</sup>

## UN Institutions Have Failed to Stop the Worst Human Rights Abuses:

- Indo-Pakistani War (1971): Up to 3 million Bengalis murdered, 2 million raped by Pakistani forces<sup>3</sup>
- Cambodia (1975–1979): 1.5 to 3 million murdered<sup>4</sup>
- Rwanda (1994): 800,000 murdered, 2,000,000 displaced<sup>5</sup>
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (1998–2007): 5.4 million murdered<sup>4</sup>
- Darfur (2004–2020): 480,000 murdered, 2.8 million displaced<sup>5</sup>
- Xinjiang / East Turkestan (2014–Present): 1 million interned in concentration camps<sup>6</sup>

## The UN is Only as Committed to Human Rights as Its Members and Structures Allow:

- The UN Security Council failed to even condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine (Russia vetoed)

## The UN Fails to Adequately Address Pressing Human Rights Abuses, such as:

- The massive open-air prison that is North Korea
- Iran’s systematic oppression of women, minorities, and dissenters
- Cameroon’s use of torture and massacres of children as part of the Anglophone Crisis (3,000 dead and 500,000 displaced since 2016), and extrajudicial killings of political opponents<sup>7</sup>

## The UNHRC: Where Human Rights Abuses are Buried

For decades, the dictatorship-dominated UN has obsessively singled out one democratic country for condemnation: Israel. Israel is the only state whose human rights record is routinely examined by the UNHRC under a permanent special agenda item (Item 7). Other countries are scrutinized in general debate. The UNHRC has condemned Israel more than all other governments in the world combined and has subjected Israel to more COIs (9) and UNHRC special sessions (9) than any other state.<sup>8</sup>

Many of the authoritarian regimes that sit on UN bodies passing resolution after resolution against Israel are opposed to Israel’s right to exist and seek its destruction. Others, hoping to distract from their own abysmal human rights records, believe such discrimination serves their interests.

# Even UN Secretaries-General Have Publicly Condemned the UNHRC's Systemic Discrimination

- **Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (2017):** "As Secretary General of the United Nations, I consider that the state of Israel needs to be treated as any other state...I have already had the opportunity to show that I'm ready to abide by that principle even when that forces me to take some decisions that create some uncomfortable situations..."<sup>9</sup>
- **Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (2016):** "Decades of political maneuverings have created a disproportionate volume of resolutions, reports and conferences criticizing Israel. In many cases, rather than helping the Palestinian cause, this reality has hampered the ability of the UN to fulfill its role effectively"<sup>10</sup>



- **Secretary-General Kofi Annan (2006):** "[S]upporters of Israel feel that it is harshly judged by standards that are not applied to its enemies—and too often this is true, particularly in some UN bodies."<sup>11</sup>

COUNTRIES	Democracy	Free Country (Fully Free Status)	Notable Human Rights Abuses	Condemnations by the General Assembly	Condemnations by the UNHRC
China	No	No	<b>Genocide:</b> 1 million Muslims forcibly relocated to concentration camps in Xinjiang	0	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	No	No	<b>Militia Violence:</b> 5.4 million people were murdered by militia violence between 1997 & 2007	0	0
Mauritania	No	No	<b>Slavery:</b> 20% of Mauritania's population is reported to be living in slavery	0	0
Qatar	No	No	<b>Aiding Terrorism:</b> Qatar has provided over a billion dollars to terrorist organizations & has provided safe haven to Taliban & Hamas officials	0	0
Sudan	No	No	<b>Genocide:</b> In Darfur (2003–2020), 480,000 people were killed & 2.8 million were displaced in large part due to "government-arm[ed] & government-funded" forces	0	0

## The Latest Chapter in This Long Saga of Discrimination

- In May 2021, the UNHRC created a permanent open-ended "commission of inquiry" (COI) against Israel.<sup>12</sup> Led by officials with long records of anti-Israel bias,<sup>13</sup> there is no "inquiry," only foregone conclusions
- The COI on Israel is the first and only one that is permanent and open-ended in scope
- Its budget<sup>14</sup> and staff are nearly twice the size<sup>15</sup> of the COI on the Syrian Civil War,<sup>16</sup> which has claimed at least 84 times more lives than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict *on both sides* since 2011 (4,133)<sup>17</sup>
- This systemic discrimination<sup>18</sup> against Israel, the sole proven democracy in the Middle East,<sup>19</sup> is an abuse of power by the UNHRC

There is no justification for targeting Israel in this way, while ignoring or using dramatically fewer resources to address the **worst human rights abuses** around the world. The UN is putting the world's only Jewish state on trial, a kind of *inquisition*, as part of a larger campaign to eliminate Israel and the Jewish people's right to self-determination and self-defense. Instead of advancing human rights, justice, and peace between Israelis and Palestinians, the UNHRC only sows more conflict while *burying human rights abuses around the world*.

### Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/home.aspx>
- 2 <https://unwatch.org/database/>
- 3 <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/genocide-us-cant-remember-bangladesh-cant-forget-180961490/>
- 4 <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/irc-study-shows-congos-neglected-crisis-leaves-54-million-dead>
- 5 <https://worldwithoutgenocide.org/genocides-and-conflicts/darfur-genocide>
- 6 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/china-uyghurs-genocide-beijing-olympics-2022/>
- 7 <https://unwatch.org/the-top-10-human-rights-abusers-of-2020/>
- 8 <https://unwatch.org/database/problems/unhrc/>
- 9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqC7GynymIg> (see 08:16)
- 10 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-12-16/secretary-general-briefing-security-council-situation-middle-east>

- 11 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2006-09-19/10-years-after-%E2%80%93-farewell-statement-general-assembly>
- 12 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoOPT-Israel/Pages/Index.aspx>
- 13 <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Request-for-Navi-Pillay-to-Recuse-Herself-on-Grounds-of-Bias.pdf>
- 14 <https://undocs.org/A/76/7/Add.30>
- 15 <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-691814>
- 16 <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-691814>
- 17 <https://www.ochaopt.org/data/casualties>
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- 19 <https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2020/>