

**SUBMISSION BY UNITED NATIONS WATCH
TO UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR
ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF
FOR HIS REPORT ON ANTISEMITISM**

1 July 2019

A. Introduction and Background

The alarming rise in antisemitism has been the subject of numerous recent studies and reports. According to the latest annual report on Antisemitism Worldwide published by Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center, major violent antisemitic attacks worldwide increased by 13% from 2017 to 2018. In addition, many countries experienced an increase in overall antisemitic activity in 2018, some of which are detailed below. The report notes a feeling expressed among Jews that they "live in a state of emergency" due to the increase and intensity of antisemitic manifestations.¹

In the **United States**, the Anti-Defamation League ("ADL") reported that 2018 was the third-highest year ever for the number of antisemitic attacks (1,879) against Jews and Jewish institutions since the ADL began tracking data in the 1970s.² According to the FBI's most recent statistics, a staggering 58% of all hate crimes in the United States targeting a religious group are motivated by antisemitism—even as Jews comprise only 2% of the population.³ Earlier this year, one Jewish worshipper was killed and three wounded in an antisemitic shooting attack in Poway, California. This came just six months after 11 Jewish worshippers were gunned down at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Both attacks were carried out by white supremacists.

Similarly, European Jewish communities have been experiencing an alarming rise in antisemitism. In December 2018, The EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)—the leading EU agency that deals with antisemitism—published the results of its second survey on perceptions of antisemitism among European Jews. The survey found that approximately 90% of European Jews feel that antisemitism is worsening and more than one third avoid taking part in Jewish events and visiting Jewish sites due to safety concerns.⁴ In addition, approximately 40%

¹ *Antisemitism Worldwide 2018 General Analysis*, KANTOR CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN JEWRY (2019) [hereinafter *Kantor Center Report*],

<http://www.kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/Antisemitism%20Worldwide%202018.pdf>.

² *Anti-Semitic Incidents Remained at Near-Historic Levels in 2018; Assaults Against Jews More Than Doubled*, ADL (April 30, 2019), <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/anti-semitic-incidents-remained-at-near-historic-levels-in-2018-assaults>.

³ *2017 Hate Crimes Statistics, Incidents and Offenses*, FBI (Nov. 2018), <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2017/topic-pages/incidents-and-offenses>.

⁴ *Persistent antisemitism hangs over EU*, EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (Dec. 10, 2018), <https://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2018/persistent-antisemitism-hangs-over-eu>.

of Jews who otherwise would carry or display Jewish religious items, sometimes avoid doing so out of safety concerns.⁵

In **France**, antisemitic acts rose 64% in 2018. Although Jews comprise *less than 1%* of the French population, they are the targets of *nearly 40% of the racist violence* in France.⁶ Two recent murders of elderly Jewish women in social housing projects near Paris are being treated as antisemitic hate crimes—that of Sarah Halimi, whose body was thrown from her third floor balcony in April 2017, and that of Holocaust survivor Mireille Knoll, who was stabbed to death and left in her burning apartment in March 2018.⁷

In **Germany**, antisemitic attacks increased by 10% in 2018. These attacks include the bullying of a Jewish high school student who then transferred to a Jewish school,⁸ and the assault by a Syrian refugee of two men wearing kippas in Berlin.⁹ One recently published study shows that antisemitic content on the internet in Germany has increased by more than 20% over the last decade and that antisemitism permeates mainstream German society.¹⁰

In the **UK**, antisemitic acts rose 16% in 2018, with the highest number ever recorded. Antisemitism has also permeated British politics in recent years. The 2015 election of Jeremy Corbyn to head the Labour party has alienated Jews from the party. Last year, Corbyn hosted an event in which the Israeli government was likened to Nazis, and in the past he has attended events honoring terrorists.¹¹ In September 2018, the UK Jewish Chronicle published a poll showing that nearly 40% of British Jews would seriously consider emigrating should Corbyn be elected Prime Minister.¹²

Likewise, in **Switzerland**, home to the Human Rights Council, more than 200 antisemitic incidents were recorded in 2018. In December 2018, vandals smashed the window of a synagogue in Basel;¹³ in October 2018, the Kosher butcher shop in Basel was vandalized four

⁵ *Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism, second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU*, EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (December 2018), pp. 37-38, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-experiences-and-perceptions-of-antisemitism-survey_en.pdf.

⁶ *Anti-Semitic acts up 69 percent in France in 2018, prime minister says*, FRANCE 24 (Nov. 9, 2018), <https://www.france24.com/en/20181109-france-anti-semitic-edouard-philippe-mireille-knoll-nazi-kristallnacht>.

⁷ James McAuley, *The brutal killing of a Holocaust survivor raises anti-Semitism fears in France*, WASHINGTON POST (March 26, 2018), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/frances-jewish-leaders-raise-the-alarm-over-brutal-murder-of-holocaust-survivor/2018/03/26/28cf8686-30f4-11e8-8abc-22a366b72f2d_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.0ed4f3d9ca07.

⁸ Elizabeth Schumacher, *Jewish student in Berlin bullied for months with anti-Semitic attacks at renowned high school*, DEUTSCHE WELLE (June 27, 2018), <https://www.dw.com/en/jewish-student-in-berlin-bullied-for-months-with-anti-semitic-attacks-at-renowned-high-school/a-44430805>.

⁹ James Masters, *Germans of all faiths in 'wear a kippa march' against anti-Semitism*, CNN (April 25, 2018), <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/04/25/europe/germany-kippa-protest-intl/index.html>.

¹⁰ Don Snyder, *Anti-Semitism on the rise in Germany as Jewish business owners and students are targeted online*, FOX NEWS (Aug. 2, 2018), <https://www.foxnews.com/world/anti-semitism-on-the-rise-in-germany-as-jewish-business-owners-and-students-are-targeted-online>.

¹¹ Laura Smith-Park, *Anti-Semitism is so bad in Britain that some Jews are planning to leave*, CNN (Aug. 17, 2018), <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/08/17/uk/uk-anti-semitism-intl/index.html>.

¹² Lee Harpin, *Nearly 40 per cent of British Jews would 'seriously consider' emigrating if Corbyn became PM*, THE JEWISH CHRONICLE (Sep. 5, 2018), <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/nearly-40-per-cent-of-british-jews-would-seriously-consider-emigrating-if-corbyn-became-pm-1.469270>.

¹³ *Vandals smash Swiss Synagogue window with hammer*, TIMES OF ISRAEL (Dec. 3, 2018), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/vandals-smash-swiss-synagogue-window-with-hammer/>.

times;¹⁴ and in July 2018, three Orthodox Jews in Zurich were assaulted by a man with a knife.¹⁵ These are just a few examples.

B. Select Recommendations from *The United Nations and Antisemitism 2008-2017 Report Card*

Last year, United Nations Watch published an in-depth study titled *The United Nations and Antisemitism 2008-2017 Report Card*, which carefully reviewed the responses to antisemitism over the past decade by numerous UN agencies, experts and senior officials. The report raises many issues. For purposes of this submission, we will focus on two issues: (1) Holocaust denial; and (2) antisemitism in the Muslim world.

1. Holocaust Denial

In our report, we criticized the tendency of some UN officials to universalize the Holocaust to the degree that it downplays Germany's genocide against the Jewish people and antisemitism in general. We quoted Holocaust scholar Deborah Lipstadt who considers this to be a form of "soft-core" Holocaust denial, and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel who has rejected the universalization of the Holocaust, stating that the Holocaust is not an example of "man's inhumanity to man," but of "man's inhumanity to Jews."¹⁶ Examples from our report included the statements on Holocaust commemoration day of former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Hussein which typically universalized the Holocaust, and downplayed Hitler's genocide against the Jews, falsely equating it to Nazi crimes against other minorities. These included:

- *2013 Holocaust day statement of former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*: "During the Second World War, millions of people who did not conform to Adolf Hitler's perverted ideology of Aryan perfection—Jews, Roma and Sinti, homosexuals, communists, the mentally ill and others—were systematically persecuted, rounded up and transported to death camps."
- *2017 Holocaust day statement of former High Commissioner Zeid Hussein*: "the sadistic brutality of the atrocities inflicted by the Nazi regime on Jews, Roma, Slavs, disabled people, political dissidents, homosexuals and others was nourished by layer upon layer of propaganda, falsifications and incitement to hatred..."

For the same reasons, we were disappointed by High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's Holocaust Day statement this year. Instead of taking the opportunity to focus on the unique Jewish tragedy of the Holocaust and lessons for antisemitism today, Bachelet—like her predecessors—referenced Jews as just one of many types of Nazi victims, and antisemitism as one of many forms of hatred today.¹⁷

¹⁴ *Swiss kosher butcher shop vandalized 4 times in one month*, JTA (Oct. 24, 2018),

<https://www.jta.org/2018/10/24/global/swiss-kosher-butcher-shop-vandalized-4-times-one-month>.

¹⁵ Benjamin Weinthal, *Violent Attacks Committed Against Jews in Berlin and Zurich*, JERUSALEM POST (July 8, 2018), <https://www.jpost.com/International/Violent-Attacks-on-Jews-in-Berlin-and-Zurich-561964>.

¹⁶ *Id.*, p. 18.

¹⁷ *Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust*, OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER (Jan. 27, 2019), <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24121&LangID=E>.

Regarding the Holocaust as a Jewish tragedy, Ms. Bachelet said: “Alongside millions of Jews, the victims of the Nazi camps included hundreds of thousands of Roma and Sinti people, people with disabilities, homosexuals, prisoners of war, political dissidents and members of Resistance networks from all over occupied Europe.” Furthermore, Ms. Bachelet mentioned antisemitism only in passing, stating: “We are seeing a sharp increase in many forms of hatred today, including the poison of anti-Semitism and other attacks on minority communities.”

By contrast, while Secretary-General Guterres did address other forms of hatred in his speech, he focused on modern antisemitism, mentioning specific attacks in the last year and citing current research on the issue.¹⁸ Mr. Guterres specifically referenced “the six million Jews and many others” murdered in the Holocaust because of a “racial ideology.” He then recounted three recent antisemitic attacks—the October 2018 massacre of 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh; the December 2018 antisemitic vandalism of a Jewish cemetery in Strasbourg; and the January 2019 attack on the Central Synagogue in Sofia, Bulgaria. He further noted that these attacks were not “aberrations,” but “the flame of a centuries-old fire gaining intensity,” and called for all to “rise up against rising antisemitism.” Mr. Guterres also cited to the recent FRA survey, ADL statistics, and other current studies on the troubling rise in antisemitism.

Mr. Guterres’s Holocaust commemoration day speech concluded with a pledge to devise a global plan of action for countering hate speech, declaring that “countering hate speech is essential to preventing hate crimes.” This is exactly the type of strong principled stance we should expect from a global leader like Mr. Guterres, which reaches for the root of the problem and offers a strategy to redress it. We would like to see more UN officials speaking out strongly like Secretary-General Guterres.

2. *Muslim Antisemitism*

As noted, our report carefully reviewed the responses of various UN officials and agencies to current antisemitic incidents and attacks. We found that one key issue that was ignored by these officials and agencies was antisemitic incitement from the Muslim world.

This is significant because some of the most violent and deadly antisemitic attacks, especially in Europe, have been perpetrated by radical Muslims clearly influenced by antisemitic incitement from the Arab and Muslim world.¹⁹ Moreover, the December 2018 FRA survey of European Jews found that when respondents were asked to identify the perpetrators of antisemitic attacks, the highest number (30%) identified the perpetrator as being someone with Muslim extremist views. The breakdown was: 30% said the perpetrator was someone with Muslim extremist views; 21% said the perpetrator was someone with left-wing political views; and only 13% said the perpetrator was someone with a right-wing political view.²⁰

One FRA respondent from Germany said: “Nowadays, antisemitism is unfortunately mostly present in Muslim and left-wing circles...”²¹ Similarly, a respondent from Denmark said: “For many years, being Jewish in Denmark was not a problem. In this millennium, we have started to

¹⁸ Antonio Guterres, *Remarks at United Nations Holocaust Memorial Ceremony*, UN SECRETARY-GENERAL (Jan. 28, 2019), <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2019-01-28/remarks-holocaust-memorial-ceremony>.

¹⁹ Dina Rovner, *The United Nations and Antisemitism: 2008-2017 Report Card*, UN WATCH (July 2018), p. 7, <https://unwatch.org/united-nations-antisemitism-2008-2017-report-card/>.

²⁰ *Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism, second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU*, *supra* note 5, p. 53.

²¹ *Id.* p. 54.

see threats, offending statements and terrorist attack[s] against persons characterized as Jews. The majority of these have been initiated by people of a Muslim background.”²²

The extremely high rates of antisemitism in the Arab and Muslim world were documented by the ADL in its Global 100 survey, which found that, despite an almost nonexistent Jewish populations, a shocking 74% of the population of the Middle East and North Africa harbor antisemitic attitudes.²³ However, just because the Jewish populations in these countries is insignificant does not mean that such racist attitudes are not having a devastating impact on Jews worldwide, and should therefore be ignored.

There is ample evidence for the widespread impact of Muslim antisemitism around the world. For example, the Kantor Center antisemitism report for 2018 notes that “newcomers from countries with traditional antisemitic attitudes constitute a threat, and surveys show that the level of antisemitism among the Muslim population is higher than in the general society.”²⁴ A recent report by Germany’s top intelligence agency found that antisemitic beliefs promoted by radical Islamists “already represent a considerable challenge for peaceful and tolerant coexistence in Germany.”²⁵ Imams around the world frequently spew antisemitism in their sermons. Recent examples include a Philadelphia Imam referring to Jews as “the vilest people”²⁶; a California Imam calling Jews “unjust tyrants,” and praying to Allah to “destroy them”²⁷; and Imams in Copenhagen²⁸ and Toulouse²⁹ calling for Muslims to kill the Jews.

In addition, as we noted in our report, the increasingly visible left-wing antisemitism rooted in demonizing Israel and singling out the Jewish state for delegitimization, is ideologically aligned with and feeds off Muslim antisemitism.³⁰ This leads to the disturbing phenomenon where radical left-wing activists and politicians join with radical Islamic terrorists to propagate their antisemitic, anti-Israel agenda. The UK Labour party’s Jeremy Corbyn is a prime example of this.

In light of all this, it is clear that the issue of antisemitism cannot be seriously addressed without confronting the problem of Muslim antisemitism. Regrettably, UN bodies and officials have virtually ignored this issue. For example, when Iran *via* the Twitter account of Ayatollah Khamenei issues a genocidal call to eliminate Israel—the nation-state of the Jewish people, referring to it as “a malignant cancerous tumor...that has to be removed and eradicated,” the UN

²² *Id.* p. 19

²³ ADL Global 100 Survey, ADL (2015), <https://global100.adl.org/> (last visited May 14, 2019).

²⁴ Kantor Center Report, *supra* note 1, p. 10.

²⁵ Toby Axelrod, *Germany issues an ‘early warning’ report about rise of Islamist anti-Semitism*, JTA (May 8, 2019), <https://www.jta.org/2019/05/08/global/germany-issues-an-early-warning-report-about-rise-of-islamist-anti-semitism>.

²⁶ Philadelphia imam calls Jews ‘vilest people,’ TIMES OF ISRAEL (March 9, 2019), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/philadelphia-imam-calls-jews-vilest-people/>.

²⁷ Kate Mather, *Riverside imam stirs criticism after sermon calling Jews ‘unjust tyrants’ and praying to ‘destroy them,’* LOS ANGELES TIMES (July 30, 2017), <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-riverside-imam-20170730-story.html>.

²⁸ Copenhagen imam accused of calling for killing of Jews, BBC (May 11, 2017), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39885745>.

²⁹ French Imam Indicted Over Antisemitic Sermon in Which He Cited Hadith Urging Violence Against Jews, THE ALGEMEINER (Dec. 21, 2018), <https://www.algemeiner.com/2018/12/21/french-imam-indicted-over-antisemitic-sermon-in-which-he-cited-hadith-urging-violence-against-jews/>.

³⁰ *The United Nations and Antisemitism: 2008-2017 Report Card*, *supra* note 19, pp. 8-10.

does not react.³¹ Likewise, major studies on antisemitism—such as the ADL Global 100 revealing the shockingly high rates of antisemitism in the Muslim world; or the FRA study on perceptions of European Jews about the identities of the perpetrators of antisemitic violence; or the Kantor Center’s annual antisemitism analysis worldwide report which this year states that “the use of conspiracy theories, the blood libel, and Holocaust denial continues unabated” in Arab countries—generate no action or response from the UN.

We were pleased to see that the Office of the High Commissioner recently released a statement on antisemitism in response to current antisemitic attacks in Europe and the United States.³² However, the statement did not go far enough as it failed to discuss the causes of antisemitism and contained only a general reference to incitement to hatred and violence without recognizing the sources of antisemitic incitement, particularly from the Arab and Muslim world.

In our report, we gave specific examples where UN officials ignored antisemitic incitement from the Muslim world, such as: former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon failing to condemn Iran’s May 2016 Holocaust cartoon contest; former High Commissioner Navi Pillay failing to condemn Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s vile antisemitic attack on Israel at the Durban II racism conference; and the overall failure of the Special Rapporteurs on racism to address the problem of antisemitic incitement coming from the Arab and Muslim world.

Another example relates to the UN treaty bodies. Both the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) contain provisions prohibiting antisemitic incitement. Specifically, Article 20 of the ICCPR prohibits “any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence”; and Article 4 of ICERD obligates state parties to undertake to “eradicate all incitement to” racial hatred or discrimination and to criminalize such activity. Therefore, it is within the mandate of these UN treaty bodies that review state compliance with these treaties to address the issue of antisemitic incitement, even for countries with negligible or no Jewish populations. Yet, unfortunately, as we observed in our report, these treaty bodies avoided the issue.³³ Given the rise in worldwide antisemitism, particularly coming from Muslim and left-wing circles, we urge these treaty bodies to specifically address the issue of antisemitic incitement in their country reviews. Furthermore, any discussions of antisemitism should include Muslim and left-wing antisemitism, along with right-wing antisemitism.

Similarly, we urge the relevant Special Rapporteurs, including yourself and the Special Rapporteurs on racism and minority issues, to address all the sources of antisemitic violence and incitement, including right-wing, left-wing, and Muslim antisemitism, in any reports or statements on this issue.

Given the disproportionately high number of antisemitic attacks in many countries compared to attacks against other minorities, we also urge all UN officials to be more vocal in condemning

³¹ @khamenei_ir, TWITTER (June 3, 2018 8:49 PM), https://twitter.com/khamenei_ir/status/1003332853525110784; see also, e.g., @khamenei_ir, TWITTER (Nov. 23, 2017 12:05 PM), https://twitter.com/khamenei_ir/status/933637709100388352; @khamenei_ir, TWITTER (June 15, 2018 12:17 PM), https://twitter.com/khamenei_ir/status/1007552627490639872.

³² *Press briefing notes anti-semitism*, OHCHR (May 28, 2019), <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24652&LangID=E>.

³³ *The United Nations and Antisemitism: 2008-2017 Report Card*, *supra* note 19, p. 30-33.

antisemitism. The annual Holocaust Day statements of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights provide one obvious (although certainly not the only) opportunity to call the world's attention to, and condemn, specific antisemitic incitement and attacks happening today and to acknowledge the Holocaust as a uniquely Jewish tragedy.

C. United Nations Watch Best Practices in Combating Antisemitism at the UN

The call for written submissions for your report on antisemitism requested information about best practices of non-state actors.³⁴ United Nations Watch is an NGO that has been a leader at the UN in the struggle against antisemitism. Through our activism, we have ensured that blatant expressions of antisemitism at the world body are never ignored or accepted but are vociferously condemned. Our work has taught us not to underestimate the power of speaking out and sounding the alarm.

The latest Kantor Center Report highlighted the problem of “normalization and mainstreaming of antisemitism,” to such an extent that most Jews (around 80% according to the FRA Survey) do not report antisemitic incidents because they are so frequent.³⁵ Antisemitism becomes mainstreamed when it stops being denounced. Therefore, it is extremely important never to let an antisemitic incident pass without a vocal challenge, especially by world leaders and UN human rights officials whose statements carry a certain moral authority.

Some examples of United Nations Watch successes in this area include:

- **Fighting antisemitism by UNRWA staff:** In several reports published between 2015 and 2017, United Nations Watch exposed antisemitism among UNRWA educational staff—including social media posts praising Hitler and inciting the killing of Jews. These reports generated a public condemnation of all forms of racism by UNRWA, which ultimately disciplined at least 21 of its employees for violations of UN neutrality. In addition, parliamentarians in Canada and Switzerland took up the issue, strongly condemning antisemitism among UNRWA staff.
- **Getting UN to announce review of bookstore after protest over books targeting Jews and Israel:** In March 2015, United Nations Watch protested to the UN over its bookstore's promotion of “How I Stopped Being a Jew,” a book accusing the Jewish religion of a genocidal tradition, and other books targeting Jews and Israel. In light of our arguments, the UN announced it would subject the store to an administrative review.³⁶
- **Producing widespread criticism for UN expert's publication of antisemitic cartoon:** In July 2011, United Nations Watch broke the story that Richard Falk, then-Special Rapporteur on Palestine, posted an antisemitic cartoon on his blog, showing a kippa-wearing dog devouring bloody bones and urinating on Lady Justice. United Nations Watch appealed to then High Commissioner Navi Pillay and other leaders to condemn this hatred. As a result, the High Commissioner denounced the cartoon as “anti- Semitic”

³⁴ Call for written submissions – Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to the General Assembly, OHCHR, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/ReportSRtotheGeneralAssembly.aspx>.

³⁵ Kantor Center Report 2018, *supra* note 1.

³⁶ UN announces “review” of bookstore after protest over books targeting Jews and Israel, UN WATCH (April 30, 2015), <https://unwatch.org/un-announces-review-of-bookstore-after-protest-over-books-targeting-jews-and-israel/>.

and “objectionable.”³⁷ Falk’s cartoon was likewise condemned by British Prime Minister David Cameron, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, U.S. Ambassador to the Human Rights Council Eileen Donahoe, and Ambassador Joseph M. Torsella, the U.S. Representative for U.N. Management and Reform.

- **Eliciting US condemnation of Syrian UN representative for spreading antisemitic libel:** In the June 2010 session of the UN Human Rights Council, Syrian representative Rania al-Rifai revived the ancient blood libel by declaring that Israel teaches its children to sing about “sucking blood” and “tearing flesh.” United Nations Watch was the only NGO to speak out. As a result of UN Watch’s protest, the United States government admonished Syria, saying, “Such insults and slurs are deeply offensive and an affront to the dignity of all, and evoke classic anti-Semitic stereotypes.”³⁸
- **Pressuring UN to remove “organ- stealing” libel:** In a March 2010 statement published on the UN Human Rights Council website, a Libyan-created NGO accused Israel of a racist plot to steal Palestinian organs. Once again, United Nations Watch was the first to speak out. In an open letter to then High Commissioner Navi Pillay, United Nations Watch urged removal of the antisemitic statement. As a result, the U.S. government filed an official complaint to the UN, and OHCHR then sent us a detailed response.³⁹

D. Conclusion

We commend Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom Ahmed Shaheed for taking the initiative to produce this report on antisemitism. We hope the report will encourage global leaders, particularly UN human rights officials, to be more vocal on the issue of antisemitism and to forcefully condemn attacks as they occur.

As Secretary General Guterres has said, countering hate speech is crucial for fighting against antisemitism. While antisemitic hate speech can be found on both the left and the right, in this submission, we have focused on the antisemitic incitement coming from the Arab and Muslim world which feeds left-wing antisemitism because we found it is a significant factor in modern antisemitism and has tended to be overlooked by UN bodies and officials. We hope the Special Rapporteur’s report includes a discussion of Muslim and left-wing antisemitism.

³⁷ *NGO Thanks UN Chief for Calling Official’s Cartoon “Anti-Semitic,”* UN WATCH (July 14, 2011), <https://unwatch.org/ngo-thanks-un-rights-chief-for-calling-officials-cartoon-anti-semitic/>

³⁸ *UN Watch Exposes Syrian Blood Libel, Calls on World Body to Condemn Anti-Semitic Speech,* UN WATCH (June 8, 2010), <https://unwatch.org/un-watch-exposes-syrian-blood-libel-calls-on-world-body-to-condemn-anti-semitic-speech/>.

³⁹ *Issue 221: UN Watch Exposes UN Circulation of Israeli Organ Blood Libel,* UN Watch (March 25, 2010), <https://unwatch.org/issue-221-un-watch-exposes-un-circulation-israeli-organ-blood-libel/>.