



Ms. Gertrude OFORIWA FEFOAME  
Chair of the Committee on the  
Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Geneva, 23 October 2023

Dear Chair,

I would like to address the statement issued on 20 October 2023 by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concerning the situation in Israel and Gaza.

Disappointingly, this statement issued by CRPD fails to clearly and unequivocally condemn Hamas for the atrocities committed on and since 7 October 2023, during which Hamas deliberately slaughtered 1400 Israelis including many persons with disabilities.

Noya Dan, a 12-year-old girl with autism and her 80-year-old grandmother were murdered. Noya's mother was quoted describing Noya's last message to her, "Mom, there is terrible noise and I'm scared".

Ruth Peretz, a 16-year-old girl who was born with cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy and using a wheelchair, attended the Nova music festival with her father. They were both murdered.

The Committee has failed Noya and Ruth. Instead of giving them a voice, the CRPD expressed its concern over the "deplorable armed conflict occurring in Israel and Gaza, which is resulting in the senseless killing and maiming of civilians". This statement is perplexing. **It is not the armed conflict which resulted in the senseless killing of civilians, but rather, started with the brutal, premeditated, slaughtering of civilians, which has led to Israel's response in Gaza, in exercise of its right and duty to defend and protect its population.**

Hamas is directly responsible for the massacre of over 1400 Israelis and other nationals, and for the situation of the Palestinian people in Gaza. For years, Hamas has diverted humanitarian aid meant for the welfare of the Palestinian people, to build their terrorist infrastructure. Hamas does not develop medical services and health systems. It embeds its terrorist arsenal in hospitals, and uses civilians as human shields.

The CRPD statement also draws a false moral equivalency between Israel, a democratic country that respects and upholds international humanitarian law, and Hamas, a *genocidal* terrorist organization. A terrorist organization that massacred babies, murdered parents in front of their children, brutally raped women, and slaughtered persons with disabilities. **There is no such moral equivalency.**

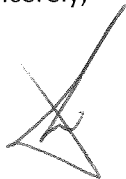
In its statement, the CRPD *"requires all States parties and all actors to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to take all necessary measures to ensure*

*the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of armed conflict*". Let me be clear, **Israel adheres to international law, terrorists do not**. In fact, terrorists do not adhere to the most fundamental principles of humanity.

In this vein, the matter of the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza referred to in the CRPD statement must also be addressed. A direct hit to a hospital causing such a devastating death toll is indeed a deplorable act on every account. Sadly, the CRPD statement implies that Israeli forces are responsible for striking the hospital in Gaza, when the facts involving the incident have become clear. This is a false accusation that has proven to incite more violence against Jews on a worldwide scale. **The evidence, supported by the results of numerous governments own investigations, confirms that it was not an Israeli airstrike that caused such damage and was a failed rocket by the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization which hit the Al Ahli hospital parking lot, just after its launch.** Thus far, there have been over 550 rockets launched by terrorist organizations in Gaza, which have misfired and fell inside Gaza. Palestinian civilians pay the price. By echoing these false accusations, created by Hamas, the CRPD takes a direct role in pushing its propaganda and its further incitement to violence.

In future statements, Israel fully expects that the CRPD clearly condemns the terrorist organization Hamas and refrains from implicitly repeating false accusations and drawing false moral equivalencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Meirav Eilon Shahr', written over a light blue grid background.

Meirav Eilon Shahr  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



Noya Dan and her Grandmother



Ruth Peretz, and her Father