

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

My personal reflections on a difficult day for us at the UN

I had the privilege of representing Women's League at the UN General Assembly on September 20, 2017. It was a busy time of year and yet this felt so important, it was necessary to be there. What a challenging and uncomfortable experience to hear Israel vilified in that hallowed hall.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani claims they did not deceive. Iran does not possess and is not seeking nuclear weapons. Iran will not violate their agreement but will respond to violation of the agreement by others. The rogue newcomer to politics is not credible, if he breaks our agreement. Accusing Iran of fomenting the problem is wrong. Iran claims it is the US that brought war, poverty and extremism to the area. Iran's economy is growing.

The **Palestinian Authority** represented by President Abbas was also very difficult to listen to. The PA wants to go back to the 1967 borders and says that they will recognize Israel and a two state solution when this happens. He claims that Israel's occupation breeds terrorist incitement and violence. He called on the International Court to review the illegal occupation by Israel. He also said that Great Britain had no right to introduce the Balfour Declaration and demanded they apologize for it and compensate the Arabs. He requested full membership at the UN. The UN should continue support of the PA, help get rid of the occupation and support UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East), an agency that supports **Palestine refugees** in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza that have lived under the heavy burden of occupation for 50 years. He also noted that the Koran recognizes all Abrahamic religions – Christian, Jewish and Muslim.

The **Ukraine** lambasted Russia and its occupation. They said the Kremlin does not respect human rights. The Ukraine wants sovereignty. It needs impartial UN Peacekeepers.

All told – a very discomfoting morning at the UN. It was difficult to sit there and not want to shout back at their inane remarks. I left to go to Rosh Hashanah services feeling we must pray for peace for the New Year, but it will be very difficult to achieve.

Respectfully submitted,

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