

Dear Members of the Student Society in Trondheim,

On November 5th 2016 the Student Society adopted a resolution requiring NTNU to stop cooperation with Israeli academic institutions on oil and gas production.

Since 2005 the Student Society in Trondheim has adopted 9 resolutions in international affairs out of which 4 were related to Israel. Three of them reflecting a negative view towards Israel, while the fourth resolution is counterproductive to the peace process.

While almost half of the resolutions adopted were against the only democratic and pluralistic country in the Middle East. The Student Society in Trondheim totally ignored humanitarian crises, such as the genocides in Darfur and Syria.

Similarly, the society turned a blind eye to the many explicit threats to the destruction of Israel, denying the basic right of the Jewish people to live in our own independent and sovereign nation state. Such threats were expressed repeatedly by important sectors within the Palestinian society, but also by Iran.

Iran is a unique case because it is the only UN member state openly calling for the annihilation of another one.

The outgoing UN secretary general, Ban Ki-Moon, recently admitted that the UN has a “disproportionate” focus on Israel. As a matter of fact this might be considered an understatement when reviewing the numbers. During the last ten years the UN adopted 223 resolutions condemning the Jewish nation-state while eight were directed at the Syrian regime, committing a massacre of genocidal magnitude of its own population. One annual resolution is dedicated to the brutal and systematic human rights violations in Iran. In the case of Israel the annual average is more than 20.

Ban Ki-Moon merely acknowledged a clear truth: The UN, a body composed by a majority of non-democratic states, systematically demonstrates towards Israel a double standard, bias and discrimination.

The recent resolution adopted by the Student Society, as well as similar ones by other entities in Norway, reflect the same anti-Israeli approach, the same disproportionality, the same unjust approach towards the Jewish state.

This reality is the product of an orchestrated anti-Israeli campaign aimed at demonizing Israel and delegitimizing its existence.

The UN and its agencies might be of the principle perpetrators, but similar traits can be seen in the media, academia and other players within the civil society. I allow myself to recommend the book “The Industry of Lies”, a thoroughly documented work by Israeli journalist Ben-Dror

Yemini, that sheds light on the mechanism behind this systematic anti-Israeli indoctrination. It has been translated into Norwegian, and the embassy will be more than willing to supply a copy to those interested.

I'm sure that for the sake of pluralism, transparency and free debate this letter will be brought to the attention of all members of the Student Society in Trondheim.

Sincerely yours,
Raphael Schutz
Ambassador of Israel
Oslo, December 2016