

The Rt. Hon. David Cameron  
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Via Fax: +44 20 7925 0918

Dear Prime Minister,

You have demonstrated your refusal to remain silent when representatives of the United Nations Human Rights Council breach their responsibility to uphold the high standards required by that world body.

Last year, in your October 2011 letter responding to MPs David Burrowes and Theresa Villiers, you led the world as the only head of government to condemn the anti-Semitic cartoon published on the Internet by Richard Falk, the UNHRC's Special Rapporteur for the permanent investigation of "Israel's violations of the bases and principles of international law."

In addition, you admirably pledged to "continue to closely watch any further actions or comments Mr. Falk may make."

With profound regret—and moral outrage—we are obliged to inform you that Mr. Falk is once again promoting racist remarks against Jews and Judaism.

Last week, on 20 July, writing in the same blog where he posted last year's anti-Semitic cartoon, this U.N. Human Rights Council representative accused "the organized Jewish community," as well as the U.S. government, of being "responsible for the massive and enduring confiscation of Palestinian land and rights." (See "For What," R. Falk, 20 July 2012, at <http://richardfalk.wordpress.com>.)

This absurd and slanderous collective accusation, reproduced in the *Palestine Chronicle* and on numerous websites, constitutes classic anti-Semitism. Moreover, by attempting to blame Jewish communities everywhere for alleged crimes against Palestinians, Mr. Falk effectively provides an international warrant for terrorism, employing the language and logic used by those who carry out attacks against Jewish community centers, synagogues and schools worldwide.

Mr. Falk published his anti-Semitic libel on the same day that Israel was burying the victims of last Wednesday's brutal attack against Israeli Jewish tourists in Bulgaria, and on the same day a British court sentenced two homegrown terrorists to prison for planning attacks against Jewish communities in Manchester.

Mr. Falk is also surely aware that when Mohammed Merah opened fire on Jewish schoolchildren in Toulouse, on 19 March, it was out of the conviction, in his words, that “The Jews kill our brothers and sisters in Palestine.” When Mr. Falk points an accusing finger at “the organized Jewish community” for alleged crimes in the Middle East, he willy-nilly uses his high United Nations position to encourage such attacks.

All of this comes as Mr. Falk is also providing the cover endorsement for the book “The Wandering Who,” replete with attacks against Israel, Jews and Judaism. The material is so extreme that 20 anti-Zionist activists, including Omar Barghouti and Electronic Intifada founder Ali Abunimah, denounced the book and its author for racism and anti-Semitism. During the July debates of the UNHRC, I challenged Mr. Falk about his leading promotion of this tract, but he refused to respond.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Falk’s latest article dwells at length on his U.N. position, his defenders will no doubt claim, as they have done before, that his racist remark was published “in his personal capacity.” Given that his previous such attempts to evade responsibility failed to block your courageous condemnation of him in October, nor the condemnations by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice and other world figures, I have no doubt that you will speak out and denounce this latest instance of incitement to racism on the part of Mr. Falk, who, in many respects, embodies the ongoing bias and bigotry of the body he represents, the U.N. Human Rights Council.

We do not know what your representatives to the United Nations have done since October to implement your pledge to monitor Mr. Falk’s conduct. However, this time, to ensure that the message is heard loud and clear in Geneva and around the world, we urge your government to request that your statement be circulated as an official document of the UNHRC at the upcoming September session.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Hillel C. Neuer  
Executive Director