

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## BACKGROUND

On May 27, 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) established an unprecedented, unjust and open-ended “Commission of Inquiry” to investigate Israel over alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law in perpetuity, including before the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

## WHITEWASHING PALESTINIAN HAMAS TERROR

Purportedly created in response to Israel’s campaign of self-defensive against Hamas in May 2021, in which the Islamist group fired approximately 4,500 rockets at Israeli civilians, the UNHRC resolution establishing the Commission did not even mention Hamas, an internationally recognized Palestinian terror group.

## UNHRC BIAS AGAINST ISRAEL

This grossly one-sided approach is reflective of the UNHRC’s persistent, systematic and relentless bias against Israel, the only country subject to a separate, stand-alone item on the Council’s agenda, while human rights violations in every other nation are considered collectively under agenda item 4.

Israel has been condemned by the Council nearly as many times as the rest of the world combined.

As with every preceding UNHRC resolution, fact-finding mission or inquiry concerning Israel, the Jewish state’s guilt has been pre-determined from the outset, without any possibility of a fair hearing.

This visceral bias is nowhere more evident than in the UNHRC’s appointment of Navi Pillay, a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to chair this Commission of Inquiry.

## NAVI PILLAY – IMPARTIALITY DEFICIENCY

Any examination of Pillay’s past remarks on Israel makes it clear that she is unable to act in a fair and impartial manner. Pillay has:

- referred to Israel as an “apartheid regime” and accused the Jewish state of “war crimes” and “crimes against humanity”;
- openly supported the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement;
- been one of the most ardent champions of the antisemitic Durban Conference;
- repeatedly adopted flagrant double standards when applying international law to Israel, while whitewashing Palestinian terror; and
- has ties to organizations and individuals affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), an internationally designated Palestinian terror group.

## UNHRC’S FAILURE TO UPHOLD ITS OWN GUIDELINES ON COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY

The appointment of Navi Pillay as chair is a complete and unequivocal betrayal of the UNHRC’s own rules and guidelines on Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-Finding Missions, which clearly state that:

*“Members should, in all cases, have a proven record of independence and impartiality. It is also important to ensure that the background of candidates, prior public statements or political or other affiliations do not affect their independence or impartiality, or create perceptions of bias.”*

## RESPONSE

Anyone who truly cares about the rule of law, justice and advancing peace in the Middle East should call out this Commission over its inherent bias, and refuse to afford it any kind of legitimacy or credence.