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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Second special session  
11 August 2006

**Written statement\* submitted by B'nai B'rith International (BBI), a non-governmental organization on the Roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 August 2006]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s) and its content is the author's sole responsibility.

## **Human Rights Council Second Special Session Is One-Sided**

We are dismayed at the Human Rights Council's second special session. The Council hasn't yet met twice regularly and already managed to meet twice to one-sidedly condemn Israel. This ugly politicization recalls the practices which, as Secretary-General Annan noted, destroyed the credibility of the Commission on Human Rights.

B'nai B'rith International supports continued negotiations, in the Security Council and elsewhere, to end hostilities, return the abductees and disarm Hezbollah as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1559. However, this session only damages UN reform and the human rights system as a whole, without contributing to a viable resolution. Further it obstructs the Council's ability to address other matters.

We call on members to reject this session because it doesn't take into account the right of a sovereign nation – Israel – to self-defense. Until the human rights implications of Hezbollah's attacks and the complicity in them by Iran and Syria are addressed, invoking human rights standards rings one-sided and hollow.

Proportionality refers to the balance between expected military advantage and harm to civilians. As a sovereign nation, Israel is responding to a terrorist group dedicated to destroying its people. While Israel's objectives are to destroy military targets, Hezbollah declares civilians their only target, attacking them with thousands of katyusha rockets, some with ballbearings and other lethal materials.

Over the years, Hezbollah has committed numerous border provocations whereas in 2000 the Security Council recognized Israel had fully withdrawn from Lebanon. The breaches committed by Hezbollah and the fact that Hezbollah is represented in the Lebanese Government are ignored. Nor are the obligations of the Government of Lebanon under Security Council Resolution 1559. While Israel is neither signatory nor party to the First Optional Protocol of the Geneva Conventions, Lebanon is. Yet, the Council does not consider Hezbollah's legal responsibility to refrain from using Lebanese civilians as shields in combat and the obligation of the Lebanese Government to protect its civilians.

We hold the standards of universal human rights in too high a regard to allow these injustices to go unnoticed. We urge you to serve as the voice of reason within the Human Rights Council and reject the premise upon which this special session was convened.

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