

17 June 2010

Nathalie Prouvez
Secretary of the Human Rights Committee
Human Rights Treaties Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNOG-OHCHR
CH-1211 Geneva 10
nprouvez@ohchr.org

Dear Ms. Prouvez,

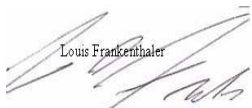
Re: PCATI Briefing to the UN Human Rights Committee – June 2010

In this briefing, the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) provides information on and illustrations of its concerns regarding Israel's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the Covenant), for the consideration by the Human Rights Committee (the Committee) of Israel's 3rd Periodic Report. The briefing focuses on provisions of the Covenant relevant to PCATI's mandate, that is, chiefly involving the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, and should not be considered as purporting to cover the full range of Covenant rights.

The briefing consists of four parts and an Annex. The first provides a detailed description of PCATI's concerns. The second and third Parts mainly provide specific cases to illustrate how torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (henceforth: other ill-treatment) are in practice inflicted by GSS/ISA interrogators, IDF soldiers and other security forces, the third part providing information specific to violations of relevant Covenant rights during war in the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009 and in its wake. The fourth Part comprises of key recommendations that PCATI have made to the Israeli authorities. The Annex briefly describes the systematic attacks to which Israel-based human rights organisations are currently exposed, including vicious verbal attacks and attempts to introduce legislation that would have the effect of exercising control by the authorities over the funding of civil society organisations.

We would be grateful if you could make the enclosed information available to the Committee members.

For PCATI, and with warm wishes and thanks,



Louis Frankenthaler

Louis Frankenthaler,
Director of International Outreach