

Human Rights Now

**Oral statement on agenda Item 2 General Debate
UN Human Rights Council 27th Session,
Geneva, 8- 26 2014 Speaker: Mr. Bassim Boutemine**



Human Rights Now shares the serious concern expressed by other speakers on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the intensified conflicts in Iraq and Palestine, and we regret much that international community including this Council has failed to take an effective step to prevent the escalation at an early stage.

Talking about Iraq, it's not only the so-called ISIL but also the occupying forces until their withdrawal that are allegedly responsible for the atrocities and other forms of grave violations of human rights. We would therefore like to suggest that a thorough investigation be carried out by an independent body so as to hold the perpetrators accountable and most importantly to put an end to the suffering of the innocent people. In this context we fully support the High Commissioner's recommendation to the government of Iraq to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, while we believe that one of the root causes of the current conflict is the grave human rights violations, in particular the institutionalized and widespread violence against Sunnis that have been exercised for more than a decade.

In case of Gaza, the evidence suggests that acts that may constitute war crimes and crime against humanity have been conducted once again in the military operation by Israel. We strongly appeal to the international community that it should, by all means, avoid repeating the same failure it committed concerning the previous disaster between December 2008 and January 2009. This time, full support should be given to the activities and recommendations of the UN Commission of Inquiry so that justice and accountability would be guaranteed.

Thank you.