

# United Nations Update

*December 20, 2013*

Richard Falk, the “United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967” provided his update on November 1, 2013, based on his June 2013 Annual Report, which you read at

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session23/A-HRC-23%20-21\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session23/A-HRC-23%20-21_en.pdf).

Questioned on how he checked his facts since he had visited the territories where he is responsible for assessing human rights just once, he claimed to have spoken to people in other Mid-East countries who have been allowed to leave the Occupied Territories so is sure that “there is no question of the facts on the ground.” In answer to a related question, he said “he does not need to observe to assess the situation; information is available.”

Finally, he claims that most of the criticism against him has been because of his views on 9/11 and the Boston Marathon bombings and this is not relevant. He dubs it “the politics of deflection.”

(Reported by Joan Lurie Goldberg and Ellen Fawer)

## **Israel and Human Rights Mechanisms at the UN**

“...Israel caved in to European and American pressure to further subject itself to egregious discrimination at the United Nations. The move was in response to a twisted appeal to Israel to preserve the fiction of a U.N. human rights system committed to equality.

On October 29, 2013, Israel ended 18-months of non-participation with U.N. human rights mechanisms that are dedicated to its demonization and defeat.” To read the full report by Anne Bayefsky on what happened, visit <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/10/30/anti-semitism-is-at-root-uns-double-standards.html>.

## **The Untold Story of the Middle East: Justice for Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries**

On November 21, 2013, the UN hosted a conference on this topic. When refugees in the Middle East are discussed, the refugees being discussed are Palestinians. The fact that there were many Jewish refugees from Arab countries has been ignored. The facts about this issue are quite interesting and can be found at [http://www.justiceforjews.com/main\\_facts.html](http://www.justiceforjews.com/main_facts.html).