

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 10 October 2023 at 16:36
To:
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear Colleagues,
Sharing here a quick update on discussions in [Geneva/HRC on Israel/Palestine](#)

- Yesterday the US called for a moments silence for the victims of the Hamas attack and it published this statement: <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2023/10/09/moments-of-silence-at-the-human-rights-council/>
Many states also started their oral interventions by commenting on the attacks in Israel, many offering condolences to Israel and some to Palestine.
- The OIC later in the day also called for a moments silence for the victims in Gaza.
- The Palestinian delegation circulated a letter (attached) to all delegations explaining the context of the attacks and the situation of Palestinians. They also held a briefing for states today – attached are the Ambassador’s remarks which are along similar lines as the letter.
- Israel held a briefing for states in Geneva yesterday. I don’t have any read out on that.
- Generally diplomats are very distracted by the conflict even though resolution adoptions starts tomorrow.
- The Commission of Inquiry on Israel/Palestine put out a statement today, making it clear that they see the latest events as within their mandate and that they are already collecting evidence: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/commission-inquiry-collecting-evidence-war-crimes-committed-all-sides-israel>
- The High Commissioner has put out this statement: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/un-human-rights-chief-urges-states-defuse-powder-keg-situation-israel-and>
- There is some talk of whether there will be an **urgent debate** during this last week of the HRC session – or a **special session** of the HRC after the session ends. At this stage it is generally agreed that it is not in the interests of either Israel or Palestine to call for an urgent debate. Palestine said they are not thinking of calling an UD.
In discussions with some NGOs yesterday, the view was also that it would not be helpful to have an urgent debate right now. NGOs also agreed that the COI has the mandate and therefore a new mechanism is not needed.
NGOs also agreed that the priority is to highlight the context of the hostilities & call for urgent humanitarian assistance for Gaza.
- Together with the other NGOs (AI, ISHR, Al-Haq, Al-Mezan) we are tentatively proposing an online briefing for states on Thursday afternoon CET. We are still working out the details. The briefing would not be Geneva specific and could potentially include delegations in [REDACTED]. Note that timing is not great for Gva audience since it will be in the middle of adoption of resolutions at the HRC. It might also be tricky for NY audience with GA in session too? I will be in touch with [REDACTED] to check if this would work from their perspective too.
The idea is that it could include speakers from Gaza (connection permitting) too.
Subject to seeing the TPs the **MENA** team is preparing, the main objectives would be:
 - **Influence the narrative – highlight the context of this latest round of hostilities (ie. Apartheid etc.)**
 - **Highlight the situation of civilians – condemn collective punishment.**
 - **Highlight the disastrous humanitarian situation in Gaza and call for humanitarian access and support.** Let me know any questions.