



Embassy of Israel in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

**14th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of
the International Criminal Court**

Statement by

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Thank you Mr President,

Israel extends its deepest sympathy and support to the people of France and the families of those who were brutally murdered and wounded in the recent barbaric terrorist attacks in Paris, as well as to all victims of terrorism around the world.

Mr. President,

Israel is pleased to participate in the 14th session of the ASP.

Israel has been a keen supporter of international criminal law and justice over the years and remains steadfast in upholding democracy and maintaining the rule of law, including in the difficult circumstances of the struggle against terrorism.



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As I read these lines, I receive the terrible news that two Israelis were stabbed to death by terrorists and one seriously injured while praying at a synagogue in Tel Aviv.

Mr. President,

Israel supports the important goal of ending impunity for the most serious crimes affecting all of humanity. However, Israel has been increasingly concerned in recent years by cynical attempts to abuse international institutions, including the International Criminal Court, as a platform for the pursuit of extraneous political objectives.

In this context, Israel was dismayed to hear the statements and egregious misrepresentations made by the Palestinian delegation at the opening of this session yesterday.

Israel does not believe that this is an appropriate occasion to elaborate further on the matter. Suffice it to say that continuing Palestinian efforts to misuse every international forum, meeting and even judicial body, as a vehicle for advancing a narrowly disguised political agenda and the propagation of reckless misrepresentations, is unhelpful to the pursuit of a peaceful



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resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as to ICC's ability to remain a credible and non-politicized judicial institution.

As we and other states have stated before, we do not consider that the Palestinian authority satisfies the criteria for statehood and therefore reiterate that it lacks the legal capacity to join the Court or to grant it with jurisdiction in accordance with the Rome Statute.

Political resolutions do not create states and political statements do not establish facts. That must surely be the fundamental distinction which separates political bodies from judicial institutions seeking to operate according to law and striving to gain the confidence of the international community. Insisting on this distinction will serve as the only true path to achieving universality and to securing the foundations and goals of the ICC.

It is our sincere hope and firm expectation that the Assembly of States Parties and the Court will be steadfast in resisting attempts to abuse the Court's mandate.

Thank you, Mr. President.
