



Your Voice at the United Nations

UN WATCH 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Who We Are

UN Watch is a non-profit organization dedicated to holding the United Nations accountable to its founding principles. UN Watch is funded entirely by charitable donations.

What We Do



Monitor the UN by the yardstick of its own charter



Combat antisemitism & anti-Israel bias at the UN



Protect human rights for victims worldwide

About the Cover: Jigme Golog, a Tibetan monk and dissident filmmaker who was violently arrested and tortured by the Chinese government, gave a harrowing account of his experiences at UN Watch's 10th Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy. (Photo by Max & Douglas)

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How We Do It

Diplomacy

Advocacy at highest levels of government to effect change at the decision-making level.

UN Testimony

Deliver high-impact testimony before UN sessions to capture global attention.

Media Impact

Counter misinformation on Israel by disseminating UN Watch's truth-telling message through major news outlets and social media worldwide.

Publications

Publish detailed reports, studies and in-depth research, and present them at parliaments and prestigious universities, to demand UN reform.

Campaigns

Achieve international condemnation of bigoted actions and statements through mainstream and social media campaigns.

Leadership

Train students through internships at the UN to prepare the next generation.

Geneva Summit for Human Rights

Lead cross-regional coalition of 25 human rights NGOs to focus global attention on victims of the world's worst dictatorships.

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This UN Watch 2020 Annual Report is inclusive of the organization's accomplishments from January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Photo: Lyubov Sobol, a leading Russian dissident, addressing UN Watch's 12th Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy.

Words From Our Leadership

Dear Friends,

We meet at a time of challenge and uncertainty. Directly or indirectly, COVID-19 has affected us all. It is our hope that you are well as we continue to weather this storm.

Once again, your support has led UN Watch through a banner year. Our reach has never been wider, our commitment never stronger, and our successes never greater as we rally old and new audiences to our side.

In 2019 alone, UN Watch called out 42 tyrannies—the real threats to peace and human rights—in 84 speeches given before the United Nations and other international assemblies. That many of these UN Watch testimonies were delivered by some of the world’s most famous human rights activists is an indicator of UN Watch’s global status and respect.

On social media, UN Watch won three awards for our singular impact. Our audience has now grown to 140,000 Twitter followers, many of them elected officials and other top influencers, and over 160,000 Facebook fans, many of whom share our posts to wider networks, allowing UN Watch to powerfully educate public opinion about UN injustices and the need for reform.

In addition, from Montreal to Melbourne, we visited communities across the globe, giving 14 lectures and presentations about the issues facing UN Watch, helping to mobilize our base, spread our message to new and diverse groups, and build awareness and support.

Our activities have been marked by new challenges and exciting developments.

At our first-ever New York City Gala in December 2019, over 300 dignitaries and supporters gathered for an inspiring event, highlighted by an unforgettable keynote address by Nikki Haley, former U.S. Ambassador to the UN.

For the first time, UN Watch organized a 1,000-strong protest rally, under the banner “Enough is Enough,” to confront the UN Human Rights Council’s assault on Israel. The event won major media attention and influenced votes.

When the UNHRC brought the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) movement into the world body, by blacklisting companies operating in Israel’s disputed regions, UN Watch submitted the sole rebuttal.

And again and again, UN Watch sounded the alarm against tyrannical governments such as Iran, China and Venezuela, drawing high-level attention and support in our battle against human rights abusers.

Our work is far from done. Up ahead is our new global campaign to pressure UN member states to stop singling out Israel. We created a sophisticated online digital platform with petitions in 12 different languages ready to be sent to foreign ministers worldwide. All of this can now be found at www.unwatch.org/database, where, for the first time, decision-makers and other citizens can access up-to-date statistics about UN bias, the list of dictatorships now sitting on key UN bodies, and other essential UN talking points.

To counter the escalating UN delegitimization of Israel, UN Watch’s capacity continues to grow, with the addition of new positions: Simon Plosker as Managing Editor, Alan Secter as North American Director of Development, and Hilary Miller as New York Associate.

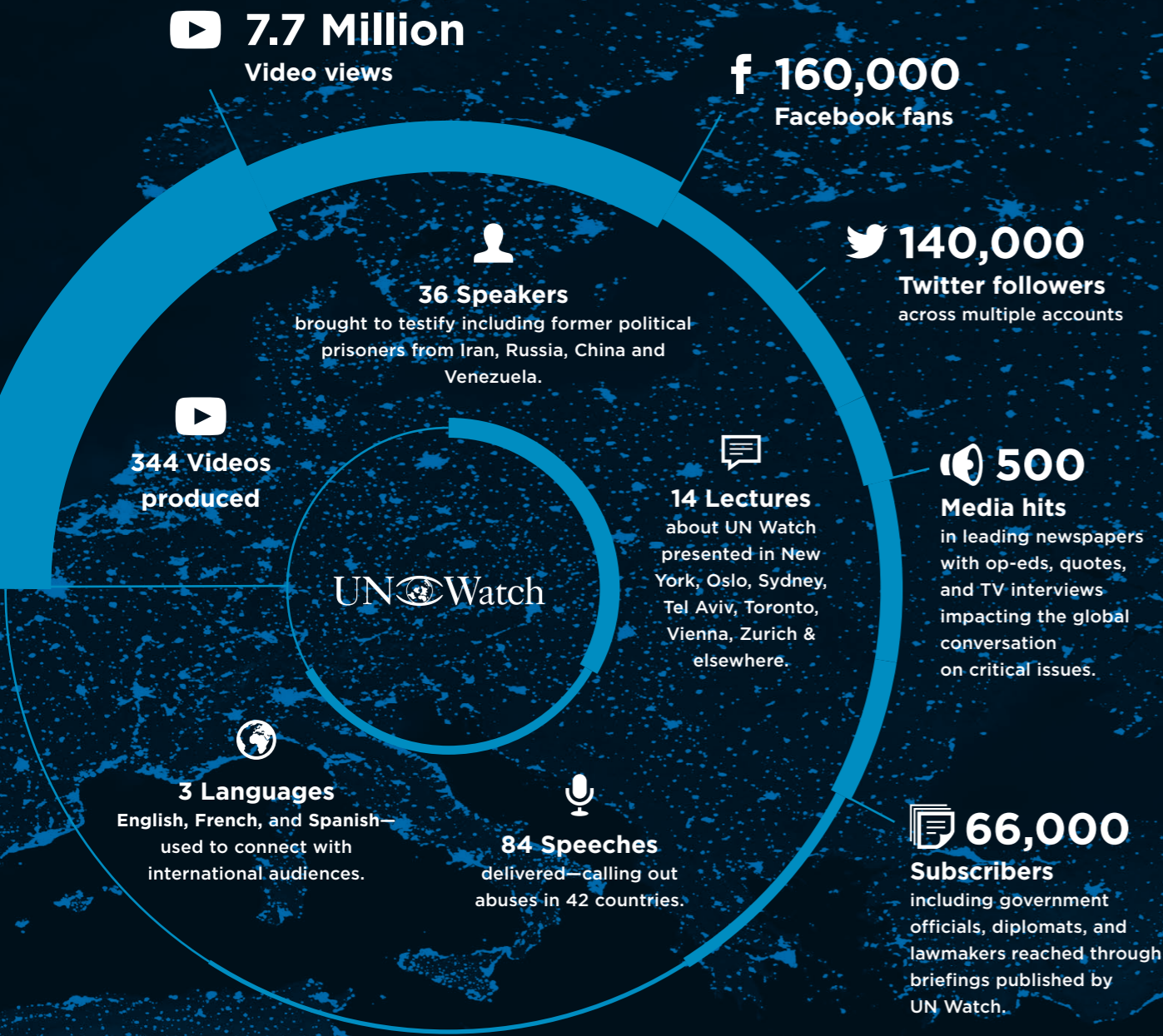
Together, with your help, we will take our advocacy and activism to even greater heights. With energy and resolve, we will continue our fight against UN bias, discrimination and injustice, and our defense of fundamental human rights. Thank you for being our partner in this noble cause.



Ambassador Alfred H. Moses, Chair



Hillel C. Neuer, Executive Director



Global Impact

Thanks to your support, UN Watch achieved important accomplishments over the past year in defending human rights, fighting dictatorships, and countering anti-Israeli prejudice.

Statistics for the work of UN Watch in 2019.

Defending Israel at the UN

“UN Watch has done so many brilliant things against the anti-Israel mob at the UNHRC... They are a very important fighting organization in support of the Jewish State.”

—Colonel Richard Kemp, who famously testified at the UN to refute the Goldstone Report



Miss Iraq Condemns Hamas in UN Testimony

When the UN Human Rights Council devotes an entire agenda item to vilifying Israel, UN Watch brings high-profile speakers to combat the hate. In June 2019, UN Watch invited Miss Iraq Sarah Idan, who was famously forced to flee her homeland after taking a selfie with Miss Israel and calling for peace.

As UN Watch’s representative in the debate, Ms. Idan called out Arab countries for teaching antisemitism and for attacking Israel while ignoring Palestinian terrorism. Her speech went viral on Twitter and Facebook, reaching over 250,000 views. “I am trying to open the eyes of the Arab population,” said Ms. Idan to international media outlets.

Baghdad Threatens:

The impact of Ms. Idan’s UN Watch testimony was confirmed by a harsh response from the Iraqi government, which labeled her advocacy a “crime”—and threatened to revoke her citizenship. UN Watch immediately challenged Baghdad’s reprisal in a legal complaint to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. Miss Iraq’s courageous stand for Israel received wide coverage, from NBC News to CNN Arabic.

Unprecedented: Thanks to UN Watch, UN Panel Calls Out PA Antisemitism

For the first time in history, the UN's anti-racism committee criticized the Palestinian Authority—thanks to a 32-page submission by UN Watch Legal Advisor Dina Rovner, who also appeared in person to brief the experts. In an unprecedented rebuke, the committee demanded that Ramallah “combat hate speech and incitement

to violence,” and it called out Palestinian officials and textbooks for promoting “hate speech against Israelis,” which, it said, could “incite violence and antisemitism.” Several committee experts used UN Watch materials to ask tough questions of the Palestinian delegation.

Outraged, Palestinian delegate Ammar Hijazi denounced UN Watch’s brief as “propaganda” and tweeted that UN Watch was “founded and funded to deny the Palestinian narrative” and to “dehumanize the Palestinian people.” UN Watch’s Hillel Neuer replied: “Mr. Hijazi, you really should not cast aspersions on UN Watch’s founding. When our founder Morris B. Abram was drafting the UN anti-racism convention

in 1964—under which you were just reviewed—your founder Yasser Arafat was fathering modern terrorism.”

UN Watch’s intervention was reported by several media outlets. The *New York Daily News* devoted an editorial to the incident, entitled “Teaching hate: Palestinian hatemongering gets a rebuke from an unlikely source.” The anti-racism panel’s findings were a “well-deserved slap,” said the *Daily News*, and “the formal rebuke should carry special weight, as it comes from a UN that is always happy to hang Israel and absolve Palestinians.”



Confronting UNRWA

UN Watch stepped up our ongoing campaign against the problematic United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), putting it on the defensive for corruption and incitement.

UN Watch Turns Tables on UNRWA Incitement & Distortion

At the 42nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, UN Watch orchestrated a multi-pronged attack on the anti-Israel incitement of UNRWA, helping expose the truth about its distortions:

1. UNRWA’s Former General Counsel Speaks for UN Watch

UN Watch held a breakout session featuring UNRWA’s former General Counsel James Lindsay. No greater authority could explain how the agency inflates its numbers by distorting the standard UN definition of “refugee.” Before an audience of UN delegates, Mr. Lindsay said:

“The UN High Commissioner for Refugees does not consider someone a refugee who has acquired citizenship in another country. Under that definition, a very large number of UNRWA Palestinian refugees would not be refugees at all. For instance, in Jordan approximately 90% of the people UNRWA considers “Palestine refugees” are citizens of Jordan, and they would not be refugees under the UNHCR, or the UN Convention terms.”

2. UN Watch Documents UNRWA Incitement

UN Watch released a 62-page report that revealed numerous examples of UNRWA teachers inciting hatred and violence against Jews.

3. Plenary Address: ‘UNRWA has been fueling the conflict for decades’

Speaking truth to power, Dr. Einat Wilf, author of the new book “War of Return” and a top expert, addressed the council plenary on behalf of UN Watch:

“Palestinians have hijacked UNRWA, which was to be a temporary agency for resettlement, to create and sustain a fiction that they are still all somehow refugees, generation after generation, and all possess a right, which does not exist in international law, to settle in a sovereign country in which they never lived and of which they were never citizens, so as to ensure that Israel no longer exists as a state for the Jewish people. UNRWA has been fueling the conflict for decades.”

UNRWA Chief Fired for Corruption

When an internal UNRWA ethics report exposed sexual misconduct, corruption and nepotism by the agency’s top management, UN Watch led the demand for accountability, in a press and social media campaign. As a result, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands froze funds to the agency—and, as pressure mounted, UNRWA chief Pierre Krähenbühl was fired.



BREAKING: Swiss freeze funding to UNRWA, the UN relief agency for Palestinians, amid claims of sexual misconduct, nepotism & corruption by chief Pierre Krähenbühl & co.

Will top donors EU, UK, Germany, Sweden, Norway & Canada follow? Why are they silent?



Swiss suspend payments to Palestinian refugee agency
The Swiss foreign ministry has decided to temporarily stop payments to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees.
[swissinfo.ch](https://www.swissinfo.ch)

7:54 AM · Jul 30, 2019

864 Retweets 121 Quote Tweets 1.4K Likes



UN Watch Brings Mother of Slain IDF Soldier to Fight for Son's Remains

For six years, Hamas has cruelly refused to return the remains of slain Israeli soldier Lt. Hadar Goldin to his family. To wake up the world to this act of inhumanity, UN Watch brought Dr. Leah Goldin, Hadar's mother, to the United Nations.

Leah Goldin Appeals to UNHRC Plenary

"For five years, Hamas has been holding our son in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions. For five years, Hamas has cruelly tormented our family, denying Hadar a proper burial. Today, I ask members of this Council: As mothers and fathers, please imagine just for a moment: What if this was your son?"

Meets Red Cross & Diplomats

During her UN Watch-sponsored visit, Dr. Goldin met with senior diplomats and Red Cross officials, thanks to the help of Israeli Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter, who accompanied her. "The bodies of fallen and captives held in Gaza have to be returned to their families," tweeted the EU Ambassador after their meeting. "As we work to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza this humanitarian issue is not to be forgotten. No parents should suffer this."

Coverage in Agence-France Presse

Noting UN Watch's role, global newswire AFP dedicated a major article to Leah Goldin's emotional plea, and the plight of her family. For a change, the Israeli side, so often demonized at the UN and in the media, was seen in a different light. Dr. Goldin's speech was also covered by *The Jerusalem Post* and *The Times of Israel*.

The significant attention UN Watch mobilized for the plight of the Goldin family exposed the cruelty of terrorist Hamas, and furthered Leah Goldin's humanitarian mission.

Funeral for Lt. Hadar Goldin at the military cemetery in Kfar Saba, August 3, 2014. (Photo: EPA)



Calling Out Canada's UN Vote Change Against Israel

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addresses the UN General Assembly. (Photo: Richard Drew/AP)

When Canada suddenly reversed course at the UN and backed a North Korea-sponsored anti-Israel resolution, UN Watch sounded the alarm. Hillel Neuer described Ottawa's vote as a "Faustian bargain with dictatorships," noting how the Trudeau government was seeking votes for its bid to win a Security Council seat.

"disgraceful." The story went international when, in rare criticism of an ally, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley suggested that Canada's Trudeau government made a "deal with the devil." Her powerful rebuke, delivered at UN Watch's inaugural New York Gala, was reported worldwide.

Exposing Canada's Volte-Face

UN Watch exposed Canada's reversal in viral tweets and Facebook posts. The front-page headline of Canada's *National Post* quoted Hillel Neuer, as did the *Toronto Sun* and the *Calgary Herald*. UN Watch launched a petition that mobilized 48,000 people to urge Trudeau not to turn against Israel.

Opposition Mounts

As a result of the exposure, leading Canadian figures, including former foreign minister John Baird, called out the Trudeau government. Opposition leader Andrew Scheer said the vote against Israel was "appalling" and

On the Defensive, Trudeau Reaffirms Israel Support

Thanks to UN Watch, opposition to Canada's vote was eventually brought before the Parliament in Ottawa. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took the floor to declare that his government was "a strong friend to Israel" and would "maintain our opposition to the singling out of Israel, unfairly, at the United Nations." In the end, despite fears of further erosion, Canada voted at the UN to support Israel on 15 other resolutions.

Historic Rally: UN Watch Leads International Protest Against UN's Israel Bias

When the UN Human Rights Council at its 40th Session met for an entire day to attack Israel, accusing the Jewish state of war crimes in 7 biased reports and 5 condemnatory resolutions, UN Watch led an international coalition of 24 organizations for a historic protest rally in front of Geneva's Palais des Nations.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Grenell, lawmakers from the European, Dutch and Czech parliaments, and eminent intellectuals delivered powerful remarks before a crowd of more than 1,000 people who came from across Europe. Israeli singer Hagit Yaso delivered a moving musical performance.

Under the banner of "Enough is Enough," UN Watch's Rally for Equal Rights at the UN was the most significant gathering of its kind to demand an end to discrimination against Israel.

In addition, more than 10,000 people worldwide joined the campaign by signing UN Watch's online petition against UN bias, presented to the world body that day.

UN Watch's protest was reported around the world, including by Agence-France Presse, Voice of America and Dutch newspaper *Reformatisch Dagblad*.

Countries Changed Their Votes

In wake of UN Watch's campaign, the UN vote later that week saw several countries suddenly change their positions toward increased support for Israel.

- Britain, for the first time in history, voted 'No' to all four Arab-sponsored resolutions tabled under the anti-Israel Agenda Item 7.
- Denmark fully backed Israel on the four votes, a marked departure from its usual policy in UN bodies.
- On the annual resolution calling to prosecute IDF soldiers for "war crimes," Brazil, Hungary and Ukraine changed their votes to 'No.'
- On the annual resolution calling on Israel to surrender the Golan to Syria, Japan and Brazil changed their votes to 'No.'

Together, UN Watch and its allies are effecting change, combating the UN's scapegoating of Israel and exposing hypocrisy and bias.

At the UN Watch rally, Israeli singer Hagit Yaso inspired the audience of 1,000 supporters, drawn from countries all across Europe, with her musical performance.



UN Watch Refutes UN's Biased Gaza Inquiry

When the UNHRC launched a biased inquiry into Hamas-led riots that were cast as “peaceful protests” on the Gaza border, UN Watch operated on multiple fronts to lead the opposition. As the Israeli government itself did not cooperate with the biased inquiry, UN Watch’s actions played a key role.

Predictably, the inquiry concluded by accusing Israel of intentionally shooting demonstrators and of committing “crimes against humanity.”

When the commissioners presented their skewed report before the plenary of the Human Rights Council, UN Watch fought back on multiple fronts:

Written Statements

Delegates opening the official UN documents for the day saw two powerful submissions from UN Watch, detailing how Hamas orchestrated the violence.

Plenary Speeches

UN Watch delivered an unprecedented five plenary speeches, angering the Palestinian representative. British officer Col. Richard Kemp testified that the riots were “organized efforts to break through the fence and slaughter Jewish civilians.” He accused the UN of “acting as an instrument of Hamas terrorism” and of “wicked prejudice against the Jewish State and its army, calculated to undermine its ability to defend itself.”

Counter-Event

As the inquiry presented its findings to the UNHRC, UN Watch held a breakout session, bringing legal and military experts to refute the report, before an audience that included diplomats from the U.S., the European Union, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Canada, Switzerland and Italy. Live video of the panel was watched by thousands.

“By omitting from the UNHRC inquiry reports of the use of human shields by Hamas, the report incentivizes these terror tactics in the future, and the risk posed to the civilian population of Gaza is exacerbated. If we are really concerned about mitigating harm done to civilians, we should be condemning Hamas’ actions and this report.”

—Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey S. Corn,
law professor and former U.S. Army advisor

Black smoke from burning tires covers the sky as Palestinian rioters hurl stones and confront Israeli troops at the Gaza Strip’s border with Israel, October 12, 2018. (Photo: Khalil Hamra/AP)

UN Fuels BDS with Anti-Israel Blacklist, UN Watch Fights Back

When the UN Human Rights Council published a blacklist of companies that do business in Israel's disputed regions, the UN suddenly became ground zero for BDS—the global campaign to boycott, divest and sanction Israel, and undermine its right to exist. UN Watch fought back, calling out the UNHRC's hypocrisy and its disregard for true human rights issues.

In 2019, while the UN was preparing the blacklist, UN Watch published a detailed legal critique, a resource tool for many that was praised by the Israeli Foreign Ministry as the authoritative “Guide to the Perplexed” on the subject. Doing

business in disputed territory is not and never has been a violation of international law, our analysis demonstrated.

In February 2020, when the UN blacklist was finally released, UN Watch immediately sent out a press release with counter-arguments that were reported in U.S., Australian and Israeli media.

In June 2020, when the blacklist came before the Human Rights Council, UN Watch was the only NGO to submit a written rebuttal, which appeared in the official documents circulated to all UN delegates.

Exposed Amnesty International's Silence on Hamas Jailing of Peace Activist

The most courageous man in Gaza is a Palestinian peace activist named Rami Aman. In defiance of Hamas, risking his life and liberty, he has repeatedly initiated events to promote dialogue with Israelis. On April 6, 2020, Aman organized a video call between fellow members of his Gaza Youth Committee and a group of Israeli peace activists. This outraged Hind Khoudary, a former Amnesty International researcher in Gaza. In a series of vituperative Facebook posts, she reported Aman to Hamas, leading to his arrest the next day for the crime of “normalization” with Israelis.

Though Aman's arrest was reported worldwide, he was quickly forgotten. UN Watch became the only group speaking out, unleashing a storm of near-daily tweets denouncing the role of Hind Khoudary, and calling on Amnesty to condemn Aman's arrest and campaign for his release. After four weeks of unrelenting activism by UN Watch, Amnesty finally issued a statement designating Aman a “prisoner of conscience” — something that by its own standards the group should have done long before. Thanks to UN Watch, the plight of Aman was raised in the British House of Lords, and by other international figures such as former Irish Minister of Justice Alan Shatter.

UN Watch Legal Advisor Dina Rovner appealed for Aman's release in a legal brief submitted to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, with the co-sponsorship of 70 UN-accredited NGOs. This was then presented before the Human Rights Council in a speech by Hillel Neuer, the only intervention made by any group on behalf of the political prisoner in Gaza.

Finally, after six months of UN Watch's tireless campaign, Rami Aman was released in October 2020.

When a brave Palestinian risks his life to make peace with Israelis, UN Watch proved he will be neither abandoned nor forgotten.



A screengrab from the video meeting between Israeli peace activists and Rami Aman, left, and other members of the Gaza Youth Committee, who were soon afterwards arrested by Hamas for the crime of “normalization.”

UN Official Michael Lynk Lashes Out at UN Watch

The impact of UN Watch is made clear when those being held to account lash out. The UN's Palestinian rights monitor Michael Lynk attacked UN Watch in an interview with infamous anti-Israeli journalist Robert Fisk, published in London's *The Independent*. The article rightly pointed the finger at UN Watch for having prompted the Canadian foreign minister to demand Lynk's removal in 2016, but it distorted the arguments we had made.

UN Watch's effectiveness was likewise evident in Lynk's subsequent report to the UN General Assembly, when, for the first time, he criticized Hamas and the Palestinian Authority for some violations of human rights. This followed UN Watch's relentless campaign to confront Lynk for claiming that his mandate prevented him from reporting on Palestinian abuses.

UN Watch Reveals: Iranian Protesters Refuse to Trample Israeli Flag

In January 2020, Iranian protesters in different campuses openly defied their regime by refusing to trample the Israeli flags that are permanently painted on pavements by the authorities. It was UN Watch that broke the story of the students' courage and defiance, through viral tweets that were reported worldwide, including by Britain's *The Independent*, the *New York Post* and *Daily News*. We were able to remind the world that many Iranians reject the Ayatollahs' anti-Israel poison.

Exposed: UN Singles Out Israel for "Violating Women's Rights"

When the UN's 54-nation Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution condemning only Israel for allegedly violating women's rights—while ignoring systematic oppression of women in misogynistic countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan—UN Watch was the first to reveal this absurdity in a press release and viral tweet that was viewed an astonishing 1.6 million times.

Thousands quoted and shared UN Watch's tweet, including Member of European Parliament Hermann Tertsch, Agence France-Presse editor Andrew Beatty and British TV star Rachel Riley. "It amazes me how the UN condones votes like these," commented U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley on UN Watch's tweet. "This is unbelievable to me," added former supermodel Kathy Ireland, a supporter of Israel.

The viral response was so overwhelming that defenders of the UN's approach felt the need to attack UN Watch's report, with France's *Le Monde* and Denmark's state broadcaster devoting full-length articles claiming that the UN had not really condemned Israel.

Thanks to UN Watch, Dutch lawmakers submitted a series of forceful parliamentary questions to their foreign minister, obliging him to explain in detail why the Netherlands voted against Israel, and prompting his commitment to "make an active effort to combat disproportionate attention in the UN" against Israel, and "to reduce the number of resolutions."

Golda Meir was the first woman to lead Israel, and the world's third female prime minister. Kibbutz Shefayim, July 24, 1950. (Photo: Teddy Brauner)



Holding the UN to Account

China Subverting UN

The world's worst dictatorships are hijacking the UN's human rights bodies, and subverting the very language and idea of human rights. The most brazen of them all today is China's Communist regime. UN Watch works to expose its malign agenda and wrongdoing.

Exposed: China Wins Key UN Post to Select Human Rights Investigators

UN Watch sparked global outrage in April 2020 when it broke the story that China was appointed to the influential UNHRC panel that selects human rights investigators. UN Watch's powerful tweets went viral, liked and shared by journalists from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, Reuters, *Der Spiegel*, *Swissinfo*, Bloomberg, and *Foreign Policy*. Lawmakers around the world shared our tweets, as did celebrities such as former NBA player Andrew Bogut. Thanks to UN Watch's revelations, U.S. senators sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to demand China's suspension from the panel.

Shamed: 50 UNHRC Reps Praise China's Detention of One Million Uighur Muslims

At the UNHRC's 40th Session, UN Watch's Hillel Neuer took the floor on behalf of one million Uighur Muslims herded into "reeducation camps" in China's Xinjiang province. Furious, Beijing's delegate started banging on the table, in a series of failed attempts to get the chairman to silence Neuer. But UN Watch did not stop there. Four months later, at the next UNHRC session, Neuer called out the Islamic states for protesting alleged Islamophobia in the West, yet failing to say a word against China's ethnic cleansing of Uighur Muslims. Worse, China persuaded 50 UNHRC ambassadors—including many from the Islamic bloc—to submit a letter to the UN praising China's treatment of the Uighurs, claiming that they "enjoy a stronger sense of happiness, fulfillment and security." Neuer exposed the disgraceful signatories—including Iran, Syria and the Palestinian Authority—in a tweet seen 780,000 times.

"You cannot imagine—without UN Watch, dictators would have no check and balance."

—Dr. Yang Jianli, former Chinese political prisoner

Scandal: The WHO's "Goodwill Ambassador" James Chau

In advance of the May 2020 assembly of the World Health Organization, UN Watch launched a media campaign exposing the dangerous agenda of James Chau, a presenter on state-owned Chinese TV appointed by the WHO as a "goodwill ambassador." Executive Director Hillel Neuer published an op-ed in *Newsweek* detailing Chau's long record as a propagandist for Beijing, and how he weaponized his WHO position to whitewash China's actions surrounding COVID-19. UN Watch escalated the pressure by organizing a joint appeal by 100 NGOs for Chau to be removed. As the story spread—reported by Germany's *Der Spiegel*, UK's *Daily Mail*, and Spanish newswire EFE—the WHO placed Chau's position "under review."



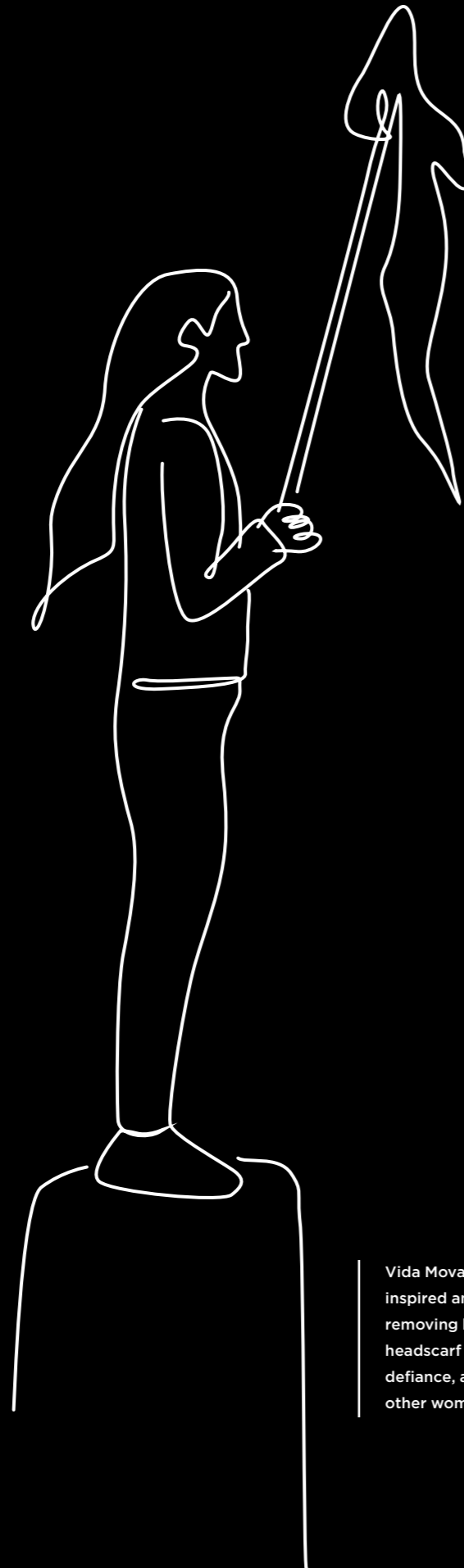
Staff members line up at attention as they prepare to spray disinfectant at Wuhan Railway Station on March 24, 2020. (Photo: AFP/Getty)

Calling Out UN Inaction for Syrian Victims

As the humanitarian disaster in Syria escalated, UN Watch continued our persistent call for the United Nations to take action. UN Watch Geneva Advocacy Director Emmanuelle Kasavi took the floor at the UNHRC to remind the world body that one million Syrian people, 60% of whom are children, had just been driven from their homes, and were suffering terrible shortages of food, water, and access to health care. She listed three separate occasions when UN Watch had urged the UNHRC to act, and then did so again: "On behalf of UN Watch and on behalf of the civilians of Syria, I ask *again* of this Council—why do you not call an emergency special session?"

People walk past a damaged site after an airstrike in the besieged rebel-held town of Douma, 10 kilometers northeast of Damascus, Syria. (Photo: Khalil Hamra/AP)





Vida Movahed, an Iranian woman, inspired anti-hijab protests by removing her obligatory Islamic headscarf in a public gesture of defiance, a move soon repeated by other women in Iran.

Farce: UN Rights Review Praises Tehran's Record

When Iran came up for a mandatory UNHRC review of its human rights record, UN Watch exposed the farce of how 85% of the country statements actually *praised* Tehran's record, with Syria commending Iran's "active efforts to increase healthcare," Russia hailing "Iran's cooperation with human rights treaty bodies," China praising "Iran's efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups," and Venezuela citing Iran's "steadfast commitment to protecting human rights." UN Watch's tweets, videos and press release were widely shared on social media and reported in the news.

Exposed: UN Taps Tyrannies to Top Posts

Iran Judges Women's Rights Complaints:

In a mockery of the cause of women's rights, in March 2019 the UN elected Iran to a committee that judges women's rights complaints. UN Watch exposed the travesty, noting that it came one day after Iran sentenced women's rights lawyer Nasrin Sotudeh to 148 lashes and 38 years in prison. Our tweet and blog post went viral and were shared by CNN's Jake Tapper, Swedish MEP Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, NBC News correspondent Janis Mackey Frayer, podcast host Ben Shapiro and other influencers.

Yemen, DRC, Saudi Arabia on the Board of UN Women:

UN Watch was the first to call out UN Women—the world's "gender equality and empowerment agency"—for electing Yemen as its vice-chair. UN Watch noted that Yemen was "the worst-ranking country in the world on gender equality (149 out of 149)." The story went viral and was reported by various media. When the Democratic Republic of Congo, known as the "rape capital of the world," was elected to the UN Women Executive Board, UN Watch was the first NGO to expose the disgrace on social media — in a viral tweet that reminded the world that Saudi Arabia, where women are subjugated, also sits on the same board.

Even Syria Wins UN Post:

While in the midst of indiscriminately bombing four million of its own civilians in Idlib, Syria's Assad regime was elected to a senior post on the UN Decolonization Committee, which is charged with opposing the "subjugation, domination and exploitation" of peoples. UN Watch was the only one to reveal the outrage. The story was reported in Canada's *Macleans* magazine, which referred to UN Watch's activities and quoted Executive Director Hillel Neuer: "There should definitely be an urgent session on the situation in Idlib, but the UN just shrugs its shoulders. The Council will not act with urgency on Syria."

Fighting Dictatorships

UN Watch Sounds the Alarm on Hong Kong Crackdown

One year before China passed a draconian law curtailing civic freedoms in Hong Kong, UN Watch sounded the alarm by bringing human rights activists to speak the truth on the world stage.

Guest Speaker: Celebrity Singer Denise Ho

In July 2019, we brought a Hong Kong pop singer and activist to address the UN. Before the assembled country delegates and an array of reporters and TV cameras broadcasting her speech live, Denise Ho warned that “China’s disqualification of Hong Kong lawmakers, kidnappings of booksellers and jailing of activists are proof of Beijing’s tightening grip.”

Outraged, China’s delegation banged on the table to interrupt the speech, accusing Denise Ho of “abusive language” and “slander” against “China’s sovereignty and internal affairs.”

Undeterred, Ho challenged the world to act, urging the UN to convene a special session on Hong Kong and to remove China from the UNHRC. The clash was reported worldwide, including by *The New York Times*, BBC, Reuters, *Tribune de Genève* and *The South China Morning Post*.

Guest Speaker: Lawmaker Tanya Chan

Two months later, UN Watch invited Hong Kong lawmaker Tanya Chan to address the UNHRC. Prior to her arrival, as Reuters revealed, representatives from China made a failed attempt to silence Chan by pressuring the UN to deny her accreditation for the event. Nevertheless, UN Watch succeeded in giving Chan the floor, and she told the world of “brutal crackdowns” and “preemptive violence” by Hong Kong police against journalists and protesters.

Chan’s testimony was reported by the Associated Press, Radio Television Hong Kong and Bloomberg, and the video was viewed 125,000 times on UN Watch’s Twitter page. Chan’s speech was featured on PBS News-hour and BBC’s *The World*, and was the subject of a *New York Post* editorial. Embarrassed, Beijing fought back. Chinese newswire Xinhua devoted an entire article to the response of Hong Kong police, labeling Chan’s accusations “groundless” and “reckless.”

“Will the United Nations convene an urgent session to protect the people of Hong Kong? Given its abuses, will the UN remove China from this Human Rights Council?”

—Hong Kong activist Denise Ho, addressing the UNHRC, July 2019

Pro-democracy protesters participate in a human chain event in Victoria Park in Hong Kong. (Photo: Nicolas Asfour/AFP)

Voice for Venezuelans

At the United Nations, UN Watch continues to lead the opposition against the regime of Venezuelan tyrant Nicolás Maduro. The most prominent Venezuelan dissidents work closely with and rely on UN Watch.

Escaped MP Addresses UN

To put the plight of Venezuelans before world opinion, UN Watch invited escaped opposition MP Miguel Pizarro to address the UNHRC. He had just fled the country after the regime indicted him on false charges of treason, and was living in safe houses until he made his way to Geneva. In his speech for UN Watch, the lawmaker spoke of 630 political prisoners and many more “victims of cruel treatment” by the Maduro regime. Pizarro urged the Council to appoint a Commission of Inquiry. UN Watch also arranged for the MP to address the UN press corps. As a result, his testimony was reported by Reuters, Spanish newswire EFE, and across Venezuelan media. The parliamentarian’s speech went viral on social media, reaching more than 200,000 views. Two months after Pizarro’s visit, his appeal bore fruit: the Council adopted its first condemnation of the Maduro regime, and appointed a Commission of Inquiry into Venezuela’s abuses.

Campaign Against Election of Dictators to UNHRC

Ahead of the October 2019 election of member states to the Human Rights Council, UN Watch led the campaign against the absurd candidacies of Venezuela, Mauritania, Libya and other dictatorships. UN Watch’s detailed report, evaluating the candidate countries, was covered by CNN and *Newsweek*, and our tweets were widely shared on social media.

UN Watch called attention to the fact that Venezuela was running unopposed in the Latin American region. Eventually, Costa Rica was persuaded to join the race. Despite submitting its candidacy only two weeks before the election, Costa Rica managed to get 96 votes, but regrettably Venezuela came ahead with 105 votes, and won the seat. As soon as the results were announced, UN Watch launched a campaign, chaired by Diego Arria, former Venezuelan ambassador to the UN, calling for the expulsion of the Maduro regime. Our online petition now has more than 180,000 signatures. UN Watch’s opposition to the Venezuelan regime won massive coverage in Spanish-language media, and was also reported by French, German and American news outlets. The *New York Post* published an op-ed by UN Watch’s Hillel Neuer entitled “Another UN blow to human rights.”

Giving Victims a Voice: The Geneva Summit

In February 2020, UN Watch led a cross-regional coalition of 25 NGOs in organizing our 12th annual Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy, shining a spotlight on the world's most urgent human rights situations. The event gave a vital platform to courageous dissidents and families of political prisoners who defy their oppressors in some of the world's worst regimes, including China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Venezuela.

The opening session was held in a solemn chamber of the Palais des Nations, the United Nations European Headquarters, followed by a closed-door meeting between the dissidents and diplomats, hosted by the Canadian Mission to the UN. The main event, held the next day at the Geneva International Conference Center, drew a packed audience of more than 700 activists, diplomats and journalists, as well as numerous students from area schools.

Our 2020 Women's Rights Award was presented to Shaparak Shajarizadeh, an Iranian women's rights activist imprisoned three times for defying Iran's compulsory hijab law. "For the last 40 years, the Islamic government has used the hijab as a tool to oppress women," she said. "As an Iranian woman, I have experienced violence and inequality in every aspect of my life." Her award was reported by CNN, *L'Obs* of Paris, Germany's *Deutsche Welle*, Agence-France Presse and Belgium's *La Libre*.

Biram Dah Abeid, the anti-slavery activist known as "the Nelson Mandela of Mauritania," was given our 2020 Courage Award, as reported by Reuters.

Our Geneva Summit achieved premier exposure for champions of the most oppressed populations around the world, with news coverage in leading media including *Time* magazine, *Newsweek*, *The Guardian*, France's *l'Opinion*, Spain's EFE, Radio Television Suisse, the *Tribune de Genève*, and Canada's *Maclean's* magazine.

"UN Watch brings real victims into contact with the United Nations community."

—Ambassador Diego Arria, former Venezuelan representative to the UN



Cuban human rights lawyer Laritza Diversent addressed UN Watch's 2020 Geneva Summit. (Photo: Mark Mann)

Educating Public Opinion

UN Watch educates the public and builds support through lectures, media appearances, and social media activity, ensuring that the truth about UN wrongdoing—corruption, vilification of Israel, enabling of terrorists and dictators, and failure to act in the interest of human rights—reaches the broadest possible audience.

Lectures and Conversations

UN Watch once again hit the lecture circuit, rallying our base and drawing new audiences and supporters.

Annual AIPAC Conference in Washington D.C.

UN Watch was highly visible at the AIPAC 2020 Policy Conference, where Hillel Neuer delivered three lectures and participated on two panels before select leadership groups, appearing together with former Canadian Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, former Congresswoman and Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Hudson Institute expert Jon Lerner.

Australian Lecture Tour

In February 2020, Neuer traveled to Australia for a multi-city speaking tour. In Melbourne, he delivered the keynote address before a sold-out audience at the Magen David Adom Australia Gala Dinner, and interviewed with Sky News Australia. He addressed community leaders at the law firm of Arnold Bloch Leibler for a luncheon event sponsored by AIJAC and the Zionist Federation of Australia. In Sydney, Neuer spoke at a private dinner event hosted in the home of longtime UN Watch supporters Jacqui and Richard Scheinberg. Finally, Neuer visited the Australian Parliament in Canberra, addressing MPs and Senators at a luncheon of the Parliamentary Friends of Israel, and meeting with additional lawmakers and senior policy advisors.

Award in Austria

In a stately ballroom in Vienna City Hall, the Women's International Zionist Organization of Austria in October 2019 honored Neuer with its Gold Award, and he delivered the keynote address. In the same visit, he was hosted by UN Watch supporter Dr. Hava Bugajer for a private parlor event in her home, where Neuer spoke about the UN and human rights before the head of the Vienna Diplomatic Academy, senior government officials, community leaders and student activists.

Toronto Lecture & Fundraiser

In September 2019, Hillel Neuer visited his native Canada to deliver a major lecture organized by JNF Toronto, with the co-sponsorship of UN Watch Canada. The packed audience at Toronto's Adath Israel Congregation included the Consul General of Israel and community leaders. On the previous night, UN Watch supporters Darren and Stephanie Slavens opened their home for a parlor meeting with Neuer that, with help from additional Toronto supporters, successfully raised both new friends and funds for UN Watch Canada.

Norway

In a visit to Oslo in May 2019, Hillel Neuer participated in the Freedom Forum, an annual gathering of human rights dissidents from around the world. At a public lecture organized by Chabad of Norway and the group With Israel For Peace, he spoke about the UN's anti-Israel bias, and interviewed with local media.



Social Media Impact

UN Watch is a leading voice on Twitter, the social media platform that has become today's primary political battleground, with high-impact, carefully-timed tweets that educate major influencers and their global audiences.

Fighting lies and misinformation, UN Watch's terse, rapid-fire missives on Twitter educate millions worldwide with key facts about Israel, spread the word about UN hypocrisy, and mobilize public opinion around our human rights causes.

In the last month of 2020, Hillel Neuer's tweets were seen an astonishing 21.8 million times, disseminating UN Watch's message to old and new audiences alike.

UN Watch makes use of this vital tool on a daily basis. Selected top tweets can be seen below.



These countries' laws call to kill gays:

- Saudi Arabia
- Afghanistan
- Pakistan
- Somalia
- Nigeria
- Qatar

These countries sit on the UN Human Rights Council:

- Saudi Arabia
- Afghanistan
- Pakistan
- Somalia
- Nigeria
- Qatar

#hrc41 #renewiesogi

2:39 AM · Jul 5, 2019

11.9K Retweets 1K Quote Tweets 19.6K Likes



BREAKING: #China joins U.N. Human Rights Council panel, where it will help select next world monitors on freedom of speech, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention—and on health. @hillelneuer: "It's like making a pyromaniac into the town fire chief." <https://unwatch.org/china-joins-u-...>



8:51 PM · Apr 2, 2020

7.7K Retweets 5.5K Quote Tweets 11.4K Likes

UN Watch led the world in exposing China's growing influence in the United Nations and its human rights apparatus. The above tweet, which received more than 11,000 likes, was picked up by *Le Figaro*, the *Irish Times*, Radio Free Asia and featured in numerous other news reports and op-eds.



Iran protests in past two months:
1,500 protesters killed by regime
4,800 Injured
7,000 arrested

Reaction from U.N. Human Rights Council:
0 resolutions
0 urgent sessions
0 commissions of inquiry

Why, @mbachelet?

7:17 PM · Jan 12, 2020

4K Retweets 255 Quote Tweets 7K Likes



Silence here at the UN Human Rights Council tonight after Palestinian rockets from Gaza attacked Tel Aviv.

They're carefully saving their voice and moral outrage for when Israel responds.



5:09 PM · Mar 14, 2019

991 Retweets 47 Quote Tweets 2.1K Likes



SHAME: Venezuela dictator Nicolás Maduro destroyed his country, starved his people & crushed dissidents. So the U.N. just now elected him to its "Human Rights Council."

Also elected:

- Mauritania, which has 500,000 slaves - won 89% of votes
- Libya - 87%
- Sudan - 91%



10:55 AM · Oct 17, 2019

5.3K Retweets 1K Quote Tweets 6.2K Likes

In 2020, Hillel Neuer had 54 tweets that reached more than 1,000 likes. This was nearly triple the amount achieved by Ken Roth—head of the much larger organization Human Rights Watch—who had 19 tweets receiving that amount.



The World Health Organization chief who helped China downplay the coronavirus was accused in the past of covering up 3 cholera epidemics in his home country, Ethiopia, while he was health minister. Thanks to Beijing's lobbying, he won the WHO post in 2017.



Candidate to Lead the W.H.O. Accused of Covering Up Epidemics (Published 2017)
As Ethiopia's health minister, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus ignored cholera outbreaks, a global health expert and adviser to a rival candidate charges. nytimes.com

9:20 AM · Mar 26, 2020

1.4K Retweets 181 Quote Tweets 1.7K Likes

Thousands shared UN Watch's numerous tweets on the WHO's failed response to China's cover-up of the coronavirus outbreak. This tweet received 1,400 retweets and 1,700 likes.



Influencing the Influencers

Influential figures and opinion leaders liked or shared UN Watch tweets in the past year, thereby promoting our message to their own audiences of followers.

UN Watch's Impact Recognized in the Media

The powerful work and impact of UN Watch were recognized in two cover stories that profiled Executive Director Hillel Neuer.

Hamodia

The Sentinel at the UN

By Sara Lehman

September 2019—Hillel Neuer has been championing human rights in the lion's den for over a decade.

As executive director of UN Watch, Neuer fights tirelessly and fearlessly against discrimination and injustice at the United Nations, specifically when aimed at the lone Jewish state.

Awarded by McGill University with an honorary doctorate in 2018 for being "a voice for those without a voice," Neuer's work as an advocate for human rights has earned him universal accolades.

According to the *Journal de Montréal*, Neuer "makes the U.N. tremble." And the *Tribune de Genève* wrote that Neuer is "feared and dreaded" by despots at the U.N.

Dictatorships around the globe have reason to fear Neuer, whose arguments to advance human rights have generated heated response and have become flashpoints for debate.

In 2007, Neuer's rebuke of the Human Rights Council was "a diplomatic moment to remember," and 10 years later, his speech, "Where Are Your Jews?" has been translated into multiple languages and viewed millions of times across social media.

Canadian Jewish News

Israel's Brawler at the UN

By Janice Arnold

April 2019—Hillel Neuer's self-assuredness and dynamism caught the attention of UN Watch: Neuer is a prolific writer, fluent speaker and skillful user of social media. Even his detractors can't ignore him.

The Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* named him among the "100 Most Influential Jewish People in the World" in 2014.

Last June, McGill awarded Neuer an honorary doctorate of laws, noting that as chair of the annual Geneva Summit for Human Rights, he leads a coalition of 25 NGOs that have "successfully placed an international spotlight on urgent human rights situations."

"UN Watch has been a lone voice for truth and for justice both at the 'Parliament of Man' and in the international media," according to McGill.

What keeps Neuer going is the support UN Watch enjoys from around the world, as measured by the tens of thousands who rally around the organization on social media.

"It's very inspiring, it's the wind in our sails," Neuer said.

Next Generation

Engaging idealistic, dedicated young people is central to UN Watch's mission. As the world becomes more hostile to Israel, and as many carry a distorted picture of the United Nations as a fair arbiter on international law, the importance of empowering the next generation cannot be overstated. Each year, UN Watch cultivates the most promising young talent as leaders who will advocate for Israel, human rights and a UN accountable to truth.

Meet Hilary Miller: UNW's 2019-2020 Morris B. Abram Fellow, Emerging Leader

For Milwaukee native Hilary Miller, activism is as natural as breathing. Hilary, now 23, grew up in a Zionist and Jewishly-active home. At age 11, she discovered there was work to be done—and knew she wanted to do it.

“A girl on my soccer team made a Holocaust joke to me,” says Hilary. “I was shaken by it and decided to interview local Holocaust survivors and children of survivors. I documented their stories in an educational book as a project for my bat mitzvah.” The impact was enormous, and at age 12, Hilary was speaking to students in local schools and became the youngest member of Milwaukee's Holocaust speakers bureau.

Hilary embraced her role as ambassador for the Jewish people, Israel, and human rights—causes she believes are inseparable. “I advocate for human rights because everyone deserves the same freedom to express their identity as I have,” she says. In 2014, her commitment reached a new level after travelling to Israel during Operation Protective Edge. As Israel responded to Hamas' daily barrage of rockets, Hilary witnessed the impact firsthand. Then she returned home—and saw the American media's version of events.

“I couldn't understand why they were distorting what was happening on the ground. I arrived on campus the following year, motivated to learn everything I could to better understand Israel in the global arena.”

At University of Wisconsin-Madison, Hilary hit the ground running, launching new initiatives, publishing in the campus paper, and fighting the BDS movement. “The JCRC asked me to testify before a state senate committee,” she says. “I told them how antagonists of Israel were spouting antisemitism and excluding the Jewish community from liberal causes on campus. It was important to share this with legislators.”

Upon graduation, UN Watch was an obvious match. “I understand my Jewish identity as a blend of particularism and universalism,” Hilary shares. “I'm blessed to work for an organization with a parallel outlook. We defend the fair and equal treatment of Israel, and we also advocate for human rights all over the world, supporting political dissidents, jailed journalists, and other victims.”

During her fellowship, Hilary was given the opportunity to testify twice before the United Nations, on abuses in Russia and Equatorial Guinea, to address an international conference on how China subverts the UN human rights system, and to publish an op-ed in *Newsweek* magazine advocating the release of a Palestinian peace activist imprisoned by Hamas.

Hilary became UN Watch's New York Associate in October 2020, and is excited to promote UN Watch's mission within the U.S. “We have a mission that resonates with a cross-section of people, and I want to share it with them and expand our cause. Because I know after this year, we can only do more.”



“The insight that Hillel Neuer provided and the discussions he sparked were an extraordinary catalyst for the students to start raising their voices on important issues, to understand that it’s worth fighting for unpopular opinions, and that this fight does pay off, slowly but surely.”

—Alina Bricman, President of EUJS

Educating Student Leaders

European Jewish Ambassadors to the UN

In a program that has continued for 15 years, UN Watch helps sponsor the UN Ambassadors seminar in Geneva for student leaders, organized by the European Union of Jewish Students. Thanks to UN Watch, the EUJS obtained accreditation with the United Nations, and its activists use their training to testify before the UN throughout the year. The program provides young people with tools to bring their activism back to their campuses. Director Hillel Neuer spoke to 20 of these ambassadors at their annual seminar in July 2019.

Australian Jewish Students

In February 2020, hosted in Melbourne by the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, Neuer spoke before a sold-out audience to deliver the 2020 Sir Zelman Cowen Memorial Oration, an annual event that honors the legacy of the late Governor General. UN Watch’s Director discussed the anti-Israel bias of the international human rights movement, and the ways in which organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have betrayed their founders’ values.



Training Interns from Around the World

Throughout the year, UN Watch manages a substantial internship program at its Geneva headquarters, hosting and training dynamic young adults from diverse countries, to educate and prepare the next generation. Interns are given the opportunity to research, write and deliver their own UN speech—the opportunity of a lifetime.

Max Baron

(Colgate University) was part of the UN Watch delegation monitoring the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Cassandra Heward

(George Washington University) spoke out for women’s rights in Afghanistan.

Julia Lindsey

(Colgate University) spoke out for women’s rights in Gambia.

Samantha Margolis

(Lehigh University) called to end corruption in Madagascar.

Zachary Margulis

(University of San Diego) denounced abuses in Belarus.

Vanina Meyer

(University of Geneva) spoke out for human rights victims in Brunei.

Samuel Orloff

(University of Pennsylvania) spoke out for torture victims in Afghanistan.

Benjamin Reich

(New York University) criticized the Turkish occupation of Cyprus.

Avraham Spraragen

(Cornell University) called out Qatar’s support for terrorism.

Olivia Tyndall

(Colgate University) was part of the UN Watch delegation monitoring the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Elliott Werner

(Yeshiva University) spoke out for victims in North Korea.

UN Watch interns Max Baron, left, and Olivia Tyndall, right, in front of the Palais des Nations, the United Nations Headquarters in Europe.

Awards and Honors



The 12th
GENEVA SUMMIT for
HUMAN RIGHTS
and DEMOCRACY
#GS2020

Honors Given

MORAL COURAGE AWARD

Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, 2006-2015

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AWARD

Ambassador Nikki Haley, U.S. Representative to the UN, 2017-2018

TRIBUTE TO CHAIR EMERITUS

Ambassador Alfred H. Moses, Chair of UN Watch, 2001-2020

MORRIS B. ABRAM HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Rosa María Payá, Cuban pro-democracy leader

AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE

Sarah Idan, Former Miss Iraq

GENEVA SUMMIT WOMEN'S RIGHTS AWARD

Shaparak Shajarizadeh, Iranian activist jailed for removing her headscarf

GENEVA SUMMIT COURAGE AWARD

Biram Dah Abeid, Leader of the fight against slavery in Mauritania

“When you are a child and you experience injustice inherited from your ancestors, confronting it is no longer an option. Resisting is a means of survival. Your body and spirit command you to raise your head.”

—Mauritanian anti-slavery activist **Biram Dah Abeid**

Honors Received

UN Watch Wins Geneva Diplomatic Social Media Award

In 2020, UN Watch was honored at the fifth annual Geneva Engage Awards, a project of the Swiss authorities and the Diplo Foundation, with the second-highest ranking for innovative and effective use of social media. The award confirms UN Watch's extraordinary impact in the international and diplomatic community.

Neuer Ranked in Top 50 Pro-Israel Influencers

Executive Director Hillel Neuer was ranked among the world's Top 50 Pro-Israel Influencers of 2020, together with Gal Gadot, Nikki Haley and other high profile figures. The list was determined based on the influence and amount of social media followers achieved by each of the 600 nominees. Neuer, who recently surpassed 120,000 followers on Twitter, was described as “one of the most active and consistent sources on exposing the absolute absurdity of the United Nations today.”

Thanks to Your Support

Over the past year, UN Watch took the floor at the United Nations again and again, fighting anti-Israel bias, protecting human rights, supporting democracy, and providing a global platform for voices silenced by dictatorships. And we insisted, without compromise, that the UN do the same. In the face of relentless attempts to silence our message, we rallied together with you to demand that the UN live up to its own charter. Our dedicated community of supporters, listed below, has helped us shine a spotlight on the real threats to human rights, even as the UN relentlessly singles out and targets Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. UN Watch relies upon your generosity to grow our activity and energize the public to hold the UN accountable. Thank you for your partnership as we continue to lead the fight in the international arena for truth, fairness, and true human rights.

UN Watch Legacy Society

Please contact us to learn more about The UN Watch Legacy Society, which recognizes those generous supporters who have included UN Watch in their estate plans with a bequest or a planned gift.

Leading by Example: Dr. Jorge and Marisa Weingarten

Dr. Jorge and Marisa Weingarten, a board-certified internist and a retired healthcare consultant—and two of UN Watch’s greatest fans—know a good thing when they see it. Whether choosing causes to support, finding the love of their lives, or helping their children realize their dreams, this wonderful couple pursues what they believe in, and they do it with commitment and clarity.

And they don’t waste time. “We met on a blind date through a mutual friend,” says Marisa from the couple’s Los Angeles home. Having grown up in Argentina, she had found her way to the U.S., as Jorge did from Mexico. “Jorge proposed on the second date, and I accepted. He flew to meet my parents a week later.” The wedding took place within six months. And for 30 years, each day of their lives has been defined by love, dedication, and giving—of time, resources, and especially heart.

Take their son Daniel, for example. Now 28, Daniel entered college as a finance student, and is now a comedian, actor, and screenwriter. The executive producers of his film “Up There?” are Jorge and Marisa.

Were they always so supportive of their son’s career choice?

Jorge laughs. “Well, it wasn’t the plan!” But he does not hesitate. “It’s his life, and he needs to pursue what makes him happy.”

It’s the same with their daughter Vanessa, who studied dance and works as a personal trainer. “I come from an artistic family,” Jorge says. “All designers and architects. So it skipped a generation. We want our children to pursue what they’re passionate about.”

Children can’t help but feel embraced by such unconditional support. And their devotion to good causes—social organizations, Holocaust education, and other Jewish causes—flows from the same heart.



Both Marisa and Jorge encountered Israel for the first time as young adults on kibbutzim, and as with one another, it was love at first sight. For decades, they have supported Israel, as volunteers, lay leaders, and philanthropists. This ultimately led them to a 2013 parlor meeting in Los Angeles, where they first encountered UN Watch.

“We were always very aware of the UN’s double standard,” says Jorge, “but we became much more educated. We go to hear Hillel Neuer every time he’s here. I don’t have a lot of people that I think of as heroes, but he is definitely someone we consider a hero.”

In 2016, their commitment was brought to a new level. Jorge and Marisa were visiting Europe, and at Neuer’s invitation, they stopped in Geneva to observe the UNHRC’s infamous Agenda Item 7 debate, which targets Israel alone.

The experience was life-changing. “We heard the droning on and the rubber-stamping of the antisemitic, anti-Zionist filth by every single country that got up and spoke,” Jorge describes. “Hillel was the only pro-Israel speaker that day. And we were hooked. We became ardent supporters, and much more involved emotionally as well as financially.”

“We have always been very socially involved,” says Marisa, “and so we appreciate UN Watch’s focus on human rights. It’s great to have an organization that does both.”

“It’s very balanced,” Jorge agrees, “which is why some of our non-Jewish friends have been supportive as well.”

“Hero” is a powerful term—and Jorge and Marisa stand by it firmly. “Hillel has complete and utter belief in his mission,” says Jorge, “and he withstands the hate and the scorn that he’s subjected to every day. People do what they do because they enjoy the fruits of their labors, but he gets very little of that. He marches on where most would give up. It’s a remarkable trait in a human being.”

Automatic, principled commitment is something this lovely couple knows well. But Jorge isn’t finished.

“We need more people like that,” he says, “who fight an uphill battle with the world against them because they believe so strongly in their mission. We are so proud to have met him, and to be part of this vital organization and cause.”

UN Watch supporters from around the world gathered at the Plaza Hotel in December 2019 for the organization’s Inaugural New York Gala.



Board and Staff

As of October 2020

International Advisory Board

Ambassador Diego Arria, *Former Permanent Representative of Venezuela and President of UN Security Council*

Jean-Claude Buhner, *Swiss author, journalist, former Le Monde correspondent at the UN*

Katrina Lantos Swett, *President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice*

Prof. Irwin Cotler, *Legal scholar, human rights advocate, former Canadian Justice Minister*

Yang Jianli, *Chinese dissident, former political prisoner, head of Initiatives for China*

Garry Kasparov, *Russian dissident, former world chess champion, president of Human Rights Foundation*

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Financial Report

UN Watch

Case postale 191, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Tel: +41.22.734.1472 | Fax: +41.22.734.1613
office@unwatch.org | www.unwatch.org

Balance Sheet

December 31st, 2019 (USD)	31/12/2019	31/12/18
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (*)	1,746,508	1,876,439
Prepaid expenses and other assets	127,554	45,922
	1,874,062	1,922,361
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		
Creditors and accruals	(59,069)	62,586
Capital brought forward	1,874,615	1,662,936
Excess/(deficit) of operating revenue over operating expenses	(73,113)	211,679
Translation difference from functional currency (CHF)	131,629	(14,840)
	1,874,062	1,922,361

Statement of Activities

Period ended December 31st, 2019 (USD)	2019 01/01/19-31/12/19	2018 01/01/18-31/12/18
OPERATING REVENUE		
Contributions	1,463,446	1,595,956
Special events	134,166	152,457
Other income	13,929	7,755
Total operating revenue	1,611,541	1,756,168
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Program services	1,320,874	934,659
Supporting services:		
Fundraising	9,473	18,877
Management and administration	354,307	590,953
Total operating expenses	1,684,654	1,544,489
Excess/(deficit) of operating revenue over operating expenses	(73,113)	211,679

(*) Not included: assets held by UN Watch—USA : USD 1,660,716
assets held by UN Watch—Canada : CAD 197,042

Support UN Watch

The vital work of UN Watch is funded exclusively by private donations. Tax-deductible contributions can be made online at www.unwatch.org, or as described below. Contact support@unwatch.org with any comments or questions.

From U.S.

For U.S. tax-deductible donations, send checks drawn from a U.S. account and made payable to “United Nations Watch - USA” to:

United Nations Watch - USA
P.O. Box 5872
Friendship Post Office
Washington, D.C. 20016
USA

From Canada

For Canadian tax-deductible donations, send checks payable to “UN Watch Canada”:

UN Watch Canada
PO Box 54007 Lawrence Plaza PO
Toronto, ON M6A 3B7

From Switzerland

Donations to UN Watch, a registered charitable organization in the Canton of Geneva, can be sent by Wire Transfer to:

“United Nations Watch”
IBAN CH46 0024 0240 3613 0801 X

Other Countries

For information on tax-deductible donations from other countries, please visit www.unwatch.org.



Your Voice at the United Nations

UN WATCH 2020 ANNUAL REPORT