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PRESS RELEASE

At UN Human Rights Council, Dr. Elkayam-Levy Condemns International Response to October 7 Victims: "Where is your Compassion?"

Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy, Chair of the Civil Commission, presented findings on Hamas' sexual crimes at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. *"Speaking for so many Israeli women who care about human rights, we were heartbroken by your lack of response. Where is your compassion?"*

Hillel Neuer, Executive Director of UN Watch: *"Many at the UN denied, doubted, or downplayed the severity of Hamas' crimes against Israeli women."*

Link to full speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJTxmwtbgf8>

June 24, 2026 – Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy, Chair of the Civil Commission, addressed the United Nations Human Rights Council's Annual Discussion on Women's Rights in Geneva today, presenting the findings of the Civil Commission's report on Hamas' sexual crimes committed during the October 7 attacks and in captivity.

Opening her remarks, **Dr. Elkayam-Levy** described the findings documented in the Commission's report:

"For more than two years, we have documented crimes that are difficult to comprehend. We identified 13 distinct patterns of abuse, including rape, gang rape, sexual torture, deliberate burning, and the intentional mutilation of victims' faces and genitals. We documented crimes so brutal that existing legal frameworks struggle to fully describe them. Victims were filmed while being tortured and humiliated. Families were forced to witness the suffering of their loved ones. This terrorism was intended to be seen. Women's bodies became a battlefield and a spectacle of war."

Drawing on the Commission's extensive war-crimes archive, the report documents the scope and nature of sexual violence perpetrated during the October 7 attacks and in captivity. It presents a comprehensive factual, evidentiary, and legal record that the Commission argues leaves no room for denial of the crimes documented within it.

Dr. Elkayam-Levy's appearance comes one day after UN Watch brought former Hamas hostage Ilana Gritzewsky to confront UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women Reem Alsalem. Together, Ilana's testimony and the Civil Commission report tell the story of both the

individual and the collective: one survivor's lived experience and the broader pattern of sexual terror documented through extensive legal and factual research.

The report, *Silenced No More*, was prepared with the support of leading international experts in international law, human rights, and international criminal law. It has since been presented to governments, international organizations, academic institutions, and policymakers around the world.

Dr. Elkayam-Levy participated in the session at the invitation of **UN Watch**, a Geneva-based non-governmental organization that has monitored the United Nations since 1993 and holds observer status at the UN.

Hillel Neuer, Executive Director of UN Watch, stated:

"Yesterday, a survivor spoke. Today, the lead investigator presented the evidence," said Hillel Neuer, Executive Director of UN Watch. "The question is no longer whether these crimes occurred. The evidence is overwhelming. The question now is whether the United Nations will finally apply the same standards of compassion, credibility, and accountability to Israeli victims that it demands for every other victim of sexual violence."

Speaking personally about the international response to the attacks, she added:

"As someone who has dedicated her life to the field of human rights, who believes deeply in these values and teaches them to generations of students, it was truly heartbreaking to witness the conduct of many in the aftermath of the October 7 massacre. I came to understand that compassion is not applied equally, and that human rights are too often conditioned on the identity of the victims and political agendas. As a result, Israeli victims did not receive compassion or protection from this system. Instead, they were exposed to the hatred that rages throughout the world and to the institutions that enable it."

Dr. Elkayam-Levy's full remarks, as delivered on June 24, 2026 to the United Nations Human Rights Council, on behalf of UN Watch:

"Our Civil Commission's report, *Silenced No More*, was presented to you. Drawing on an extensive historical archive, we assembled the most comprehensive evidentiary record of the sexual crimes of October 7, and in captivity. For two years, we immersed ourselves in testimonies of unimaginable violence. We revealed 13 patterns of abuse — including rape, gang rape, sexual torture, burning, and the deliberate mutilation of victims' faces and genitalia.

Victims were filmed while being tortured. Families were forced to witness the suffering of their: deliberate sexual torture of family members, to maximize their suffering.

This terror was made for visibility. Women's bodies became spectacles of war. This was a calculated strategy. The truth is that Hamas created a blueprint for others to follow, putting women at risk worldwide.

The question now is no longer whether the crimes occurred. But what will the world do about it? The evidence is overwhelming.

Speaking for so many Israeli women who care about human rights, we were heartbroken by your lack of response. Where is your compassion?

Will the UN rapporteurs who doubted or denied these crimes acknowledge the truth?

Israeli victims were not merely abandoned. They were singled out, dehumanized, delegitimized.

We are now left to face a world consumed by hatred—and with an international system that fuels it.

Will anything change?

We call upon you to recognize our findings. Let this be the beginning of change.”

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The Civil Commission was founded following Hamas’s brutal October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, which left over 1,200 dead and more than 250 kidnapped. In response to the widespread murder, torture, rape, and abduction and ensuing denial, this independent non-profit was established to document, research, and raise global awareness of the war crimes and gender-based violence committed by Hamas and its collaborators. Led by human rights and international law expert **Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy**, the 2024 Israel Prize laureate, the Commission works to amplify victims’ voices and confront denial in the international arena. Learn more: <https://www.civilc.org/>