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As I stand before you all, to address you on this day of remembrance and mourning, I salute the memory of the many millions of our people, lost to the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust. I salute our beloved survivors present here today, for their unparalleled suffering, courage and endurance - then and now.

On a day like this, it pains me greatly to see that the terrible hatred which robbed so many innocent millions of our people of their very lives, is still very much alive – evolving, growing and adjusting like a cancer to new conditions with the passing of time, and seeking to undermine any Jewish presence, wherever our people is to be found.

There can be no doubt that whereas once, individual Jews or individual Jewish communities were the primary target of anti-Semitic hatred - contemporary anti-Semitism around the world also finds as a main target, the State of Israel : the Jewish State which holds within its borders the world's largest Jewish population.

The Western nations which invest so much effort in combating anti-Semitism at the national level, have failed to properly stand up to those countries, PRIMARILY in the Arab and Islamic world – representing a total population of some 1.5 billion people worldwide – which are openly and proudly promoting anti-Semitism almost as an ideology of State. Those are the countries which have managed to hijack many international organizations as tools for promoting anti-Semitism on a meta level, through constant demonizing of the Jewish state - and only the Jewish state.

Very sadly, the Western democracies at large – the very same democracies that fight anti-Semitism nationally – have not only failed to stand up against the discrimination targeting Israel in the United Nations and other international organizations – not seldom they join those very biased initiatives in question. Initiatives which routinely go well beyond proportionate and legitimate criticism, with the pre-mediated intention to de-legitimize and demonize is the Jewish State.

In this context it is enough to refer to the already infamous resolutions recently passed by UNESCO with regard to Jerusalem – virtually denying all Jewish ties over so many continuous millennia to the Holy City, which the Jewish People made famous and first brought to the attention of the world, at the very dawn of history.

A reflection of the malfunctions in the international system I have described - is the regrettable fact that many Western democracies find themselves among the countries having supported or abstained from voting, on these UNESCO resolutions – causing universal hurt and disbelief across the Jewish world. The Secretary General of UNESCO herself has expressed her profound dismay and disbelief at these completely indefensible resolutions.

In spite of all this, and as a result of growing awareness, the US State Department and other international organizations and countries have formulated definitions of anti-Semitism. Definitions which all take into account the fact that outright demonization of the State of Israel alone, among all the nations of the world - is today's one of the primary expressions of anti-Semitism.

Dear friends - as a boy, I asked my father who had narrowly escaped from the clutches of the Nazis, if anti-Semitism still existed. And he replied with sorrow: "Yes, of course". Asked the same question by my own son, my answer was slightly different. I said: "It does" but added – "since the old-style anti-Semitism is no longer fashionable in the free world, the anti-Semites have found a new target, our homeland Israel, the State of the Jews". When one day my young grand-daughters will inevitably ask me in turn: "Saba, does anti-Semitism still exist"? I hope to be able to tell them: "Well you know my dears, finally that awful hatred is now almost a thing of the past".

For this ever to happen, all of us - and all of our governments in the democratic world - must have the courage to challenge anti-Semitism wherever it appears – in our private everyday lives, in the context of a broader society and in the world of nations at large.