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RZA-Mizrachi Statement on Vanessa Frazier's Conduct and Fitness for U.N. Leadership

The Religious Zionists of America–Mizrachi expresses deep concern over the recent public conduct of Vanessa Frazier, the U.N. Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, including her intemperate outburst at a United Nations session last week and her troubling public commentary concerning Israel.

At a forum meant to address grave matters of sexual violence in conflict, Ms. Frazier chose not to model the impartiality, restraint and professionalism expected of a senior U.N. official. Instead, she publicly intervened against Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, as he challenged deeply biased U.N. reporting against the State of Israel. Ambassador Danon's response was appropriate: Israel, a sovereign member state of the United Nations, has every right to reject false, politicized and discriminatory accusations made under the cover of U.N. authority.

The concern is not limited to one exchange. Publicly available reports and screenshots raise serious questions about Ms. Frazier's judgment, including deleted or disputed social-media activity involving inflammatory anti-Israel material and the amplification of unverified accusations against Israel. A senior U.N. official responsible for children in armed conflict should be scrupulous about facts, careful about sources and visibly free of prejudice. Ms. Frazier's conduct has fallen short of that standard.

RZA is especially concerned by reports and diplomatic speculation that Ms. Frazier may be viewed in some circles as a possible candidate for Secretary-General of the United Nations. We recognize that no official candidacy has been announced. But should her name be under consideration, her recent conduct should disqualify her from serious consideration. The Secretary-General of the United Nations must be able to command trust across member states, exercise discipline in public forums and resist the U.N.'s worst habit: singling out Israel while giving cover to those who attack it.

The United Nations already suffers from a severe credibility problem when it comes to Israel and the Jewish people. Elevating officials who traffic in inflammatory allegations, engage questionable sources, or treat Israel as uniquely suspect only deepens that crisis.

Ms. Frazier is not fit to chair a sensitive U.N. mandate involving Israel, children and armed conflict. She is certainly not fit to lead the United Nations.

RZA calls on the United Nations to review Ms. Frazier's public conduct, correct the record where false or unverified allegations have been circulated, and ensure that future U.N. leadership reflects fairness, discipline and moral seriousness rather than politicized hostility toward the Jewish state.

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Established in 1913, the RZA is one of the oldest and most influential Zionist organizations in the United States. It helped create pioneering Jewish communities in the Land of Israel, campaigned for the establishment of Israel, and has inspired numerous American Zionists to make aliya. Today the RZA is on the front lines of pro-Israel activism and religious Zionist education. The RZA is not affiliated with any American or Israeli political party.