



Making NGOs Accountable

## INSIDER REPORT May 2012



### 1. International Criminal Court, echoing NGO Monitor legal briefing, rejects NGO-led anti-Israel "lawfare" initiative

In a key defeat for [NGO "lawfare"](#) in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) [decided](#) that it does not have jurisdiction to begin an investigation over cases related to the 2008-09 Gaza War because "Palestine" is not a state. In January 2009, the Palestinian Authority (PA) filed a letter with the Court, purporting to accept the ICC's jurisdiction in order to bring war crimes cases against Israeli officials. NGO Monitor was involved in the case from the outset, and the major points of its [legal brief](#) are echoed in the ruling.

In a [statement to the media](#), NGO Monitor Legal Advisor Anne Herzberg noted, "Throughout this process, the ICC – created to punish the worst perpetrators of war crimes and mass murder – was exploited by several EU- and European-government funded non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which intensively lobbied the OTP as part of their campaign to attack the legitimacy of the State of Israel...this clearly was contradictory to the spirit and substance of peace negotiations."



### 2. [Watch NGO Monitor's Yom Ha'atzmaut video](#), celebrating 64 years of Israel's vibrant democracy



### **3. NGO Monitor's critique of statement from UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has important diplomatic impact**

NGO Monitor published a [detailed rebuttal](#) of the statement from UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, which included Israel among countries she alleged "curtail the freedom of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society actors to operate independently and effectively." Our statement noted that among other inaccuracies, Pillay misrepresented relevant Israeli laws, and ignored the powerful lobby of Israeli political advocacy NGOs in European and UN frameworks.

Diplomats based in Israel informed NGO Monitor that they transmitted NGO Monitor's correction to the highest levels of their governments.



### **4. Gerald Steinberg to speak in UN; other venues and meetings in New York and Washington, DC**

Prof. Steinberg will be travelling to Washington, DC and New York during the second half of May. In Washington, he will address the AICE-Schusterman Conference and the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and meet with senior staffers of several leading members of Congress. In New York, he will address the United Nations Correspondents Association, give a lunch briefing to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and speak at a private event for the JCC in Manhattan.

In the past month, Prof. Steinberg has met with various Israeli government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as with Norwegian Ambassador to Israel Svein Sevje and Danish Ambassador to Israel Liselotte Kjærsgaard Plesner.

Prof. Steinberg also [spoke at a conference](#) at the Netanya Academic College, "Countering the Assault on Israel's Legitimacy," at the Bar Ilan University International Communications Center for Public Diplomacy, at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs ("Who and What is Polarizing Israeli-Diaspora Relations and What Can be Done About It"), and at the Beit Midrash for Human Rights.

Opinio Juris, a leading international law blog, asked NGO Monitor Legal Advisor Anne Herzberg, to contribute to its online symposium on the Kony2012 video and campaign. [Her submission](#) was based on her paper "IHL 2.0: Is there a role for social media in monitoring and enforcement?", presented in November 2011 at an international conference sponsored by Hebrew University Minerva Center for Human Rights and the Int'l Committee for the Red Cross.

Communications Director Jason Edelstein was [quoted extensively](#) by AIJAC (Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council) regarding the controversy over Australian government funding of anti-Israel NGOs. He also spoke to two student groups in Jerusalem, including the Jerusalem Debate Club.



## **5. NGO Monitor congratulates International Advisory Board member Dr. Judea Pearl**

NGO Monitor congratulates Dr. Judea Pearl, a member of NGO Monitor's International Advisory Board, on being awarded the 2011 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Turing Award. Pearl, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, has led "remarkable advances in the partnership between humans and machines that is the foundation of Artificial Intelligence."

Considered the "Nobel Prize in Computing," the Turing Award comes with a \$250,000 prize.