



LAWYERS FOR SECURE IMMIGRATION

July 11, 2025

For Immediate Release

We support Marco Rubio's immediate and decisive action regarding the imposition of [sanctions](#) on Francesca Albanese, United Nations Human Rights Council "Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967.

Canada's largest administrative tribunal, the *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada*, chaired by Manon Brassard, relies on information authored by Francesca Albanese to make decisions on asylum claims and other immigration cases. The *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* endorses the views held by Ms. Albanese by distributing her publications on the grounds that they represent "neutral and balanced" independent information about the Palestinian Territories and Israel.

The inclusion of material from Francesca Albanese in the IRB's National Documentation Packages is shocking and breaches the Canadian principles of equality and security of the person as enshrined in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

We recommend Canada immediately withdraw all materials from its country specific [National Documentation Packages](#) ²authored by Francesca Albanese. By inclusion, the IRB and the Government of Canada endorses her views as a reliable source of evidence at Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board.

The Immigration and Refugee Board Research Directorate provides "country-of-origin information" ("COI") to the Refugee Protection Division and the Refugee Appeal Division. The sources of "COI" include foreign government organizations, academic publications, independent news services, national and international non-governmental organizations, and human rights organizations. The purpose of "COI" is to provide balanced and neutral material.

The message Canada sends in having Francesca Albanese's material at the IRB Research Directorate is that her work is credible, impartial and balanced.

Removing her work from the IRB Research Directorate will not prevent counsel from introducing her evidence, if they so wish, in any refugee or immigration matter.



We recommend Canada withdraw Francesca Albanese's publications from the Immigration and Refugee Board Research Directorate, and allow individual counsel to submit her materials, in their cases where, in their professional opinion, they feel that it is advantageous to do so.

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We call on Deborah Lyons, Canada's Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism to immediately address this matter with the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.

For further information on this matter please contact us at info@lawyers4secureimmigration.org