



PRESS RELEASE

As the United Nations meet, action, not words is needed on Palestine

Amid mounting concern at the remorseless attacks by Israel against the civilian population in Gaza - which since 7 October 2023 have reportedly led to the deaths and serious injury of over 227,000 Palestinians and the displacement over the last two weeks of over 400,000 people - 295 former EU and Member State Ambassadors & Senior Officials call for urgent action.

We strongly urge the European Union to immediately impose targeted sanctions on the Israeli government and suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement. In addition, we urge the President of the UN General Assembly and the Chair of the UN Security Council to convene Emergency Meetings of UNGA and the UNSC to adopt sanctions against the multiple violations of international law being perpetrated daily by the Israeli government on the people of Palestine. The United Nations, being the established global body for peace and security, must live up to its responsibilities.

"We cannot stand idly by, watching Gaza reduced to rubble and its inhabitants to destitution and starvation" said former EU Ambassador Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff on behalf of all co-signatories. "The issue is whether the EU and like-minded nations are going to stand up for basic humanity and for the values that underpin the post-war international order. Action needs to be taken urgently to preserve life, end the military onslaught on Gaza, secure the return of all hostages and move to governance arrangements that allow for a swift return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza as a necessary step towards a unified and democratically elected Palestinian government".

We demand EU leaders to respond urgently to the fact that:

- In recent days the actions of the Israeli army have escalated to another level, with the bombardment of Gaza City in pursuit of the openly declared Israeli government policy of clearing the population out of the city, and forcing the displacement of a million and a half people within or even outside the territory;
- An engineered, man-made famine is unfolding in Gaza, already affecting 500,000 Gazans, with severe malnutrition rife and more than 130 children having starved to death, despite the ICJ's provisional findings in February 2024 in the case brought against Israel which require that all States take action to ensure that adequate humanitarian supplies reach Gaza; and
- Israel has blatantly ignored the UN General Assembly Resolution of 18 September 2024 calling for an end to its illegal occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, instead doubling down and annexing additional swathes of Palestinian territory.

While noting the European Commission's new proposals for limited measures against Israel, our conviction is that the EU's Institutions and its Member States must act far more decisively to uphold international law and protect human rights, notably by:

- **Suspending the EU-Israel Association agreement**, ceasing the export and import of arms and military equipment, banning imports from Israel's illegal settlements, restricting access to EU co-financed programmes, and urging Israel's other key trade partners, including in the Global South, to follow suit.
- **Imposing immediate targeted sanctions** on Israel's political and military leadership and all those complicit in and responsible for war crimes. Accountability must be ensured;
- **Urging the 13 EU member states that have not yet done so to join both the 147 UN Member States who have already recognised the State of Palestine, and those who have announced they will do so at the upcoming UNGA meeting**, notably France, Belgium, Malta, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia;
- **Demonstrating political and diplomatic leadership** within all UN bodies and in partnerships with the Global South, Arab States and regional powers, to pressure Israel into compliance with its international obligations;
- **Supporting and strengthening the Global Alliance** for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution - the key platform for a sustainable political solution allowing Palestinians and Israelis to co-exist in peace and security; and
- **Demanding that the US rescind decisions** taken preventing official representatives of Palestine and the UN from even engaging in dialogue at UNGA.

The heinous attacks of 7 October 2023 by Hamas and others against Israeli citizens, along with the continuing detention of hostages, can never justify the retribution wreaked on Gaza which is becoming the graveyard of international law and universal human rights. . Reckless military assaults of the type committed by Israel on the sovereign territory of Qatar yesterday, a key player in ceasefire talks, and lack of effective action will condemn generations of both Palestinians and Israelis to perpetual suffering and continue to destabilise the region and beyond.

It is incumbent on all of us, as global citizens, to demand from our Leaders nothing less than the full application of international law.

The time to act is now.

Signed on 10 September 2025 by 295 former EU and Member State Ambassadors & Senior Officials and subsequently a total of 415.

[The embedded hyperlink shows the list of all signatories](#): it may be added to after the issue of this press release. Diplomats and senior officials of the EU and of the following European Union countries have currently signed this appeal, and others may be added as they too endorse it: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Spain.

[EN](#) [DE](#) [FR](#) [GR](#) [ES](#) [IT](#) [PT](#) [Hebrew](#) [Arabic](#)

Notes for editors

The Global Alliance for the Two-State Solution was launched on September 26, 2024, at the UN in New York, co-hosted by the EU, Arab League, and Norway. It aims to advance a just two-state solution, facilitate ceasefire, hostage release, and humanitarian aid. Co-chairs are France and Saudi Arabia, with many countries participating. On 29 July 2025 the High-Level Conference adopted the New York Declaration, setting actionable frameworks for political, security, legal, humanitarian, and economic efforts, overseen by working groups. During the 80th UN General Assembly in September 2025, international mobilization and recognition pledges for Palestine are planned.

Earlier letters were written by former EU and Member State Ambassadors and Senior Officials in [July 2025](#) and on [26 August 2025](#)

As translations become available, they may be accessed
here: FR, DE, IT,