

Joint Statement

Will the EU Act on July 15—Before More Lives Are Lost to Genocide?

The catastrophe unfolding in Gaza is a stain on our shared humanity and a test of Europe's commitment to justice. After 21 months of relentless military assaults, more than 15,000 children have been killed, tens of thousands injured, and nearly 200,000 civilians—almost one in ten Gazans—have suffered death or injury since October 2023. Starvation and the destruction of essential infrastructure are being used as weapons of war.

Across Europe, citizens watch in horror and demand their governments and the European Union act—not with empty words, but with meaningful, concrete steps to stop this devastation.

The EU's current approach of dialogue and engagement has failed to halt Israel's ongoing violations of international law and human rights. The EU External Action Service's own assessment confirms the UN's findings: Israel is responsible for indiscriminate attacks, starvation, torture, and apartheid policies against Palestinians—breaches of its human rights obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

This impunity must end.

On July 15, the EU Ministerial Council has a critical opportunity to reclaim Europe's credibility and the rule of law. The most effective action would be a full suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement—sending a clear message that breaches of human rights have consequences.

If unanimity proves impossible, a qualified majority vote should immediately enforce:

- The cancellation of preferential trade arrangements with Israel,
- A ban on trade with illegal settlements,
- And the suspension of Israel's participation in EU scientific, academic, and technology programs such as Horizon Europe.

Should collective EU action stall, individual member states must step forward. Countries like Ireland and Spain have already begun to impose arms embargoes, as called for by the International Court of Justice to prevent further genocide in Gaza. European governments unwilling to take a stand must not block those prepared to uphold human rights.

The possibility of a new ceasefire does not detract from the necessity and urgency of this campaign—especially since Israel has a record of violating and undermining previous ceasefires.

What hangs in the balance is not only the survival and dignity of the Palestinian people but the very values Europe claims to embody—human rights, justice, and the rule of law.

July 15th is Europe's moment to act decisively and answer the call of millions demanding real change. Words have run out. Now is the time for action.