



Open letter

Ms. Kaja Kallas

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

European Union

Cc:

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Mr. António Costa, President-in-Office of the European Council

Ms. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament

Ministers of Foreign Affairs of EU Member States

Subject: Request for an Urgent Meeting and Call for Firm Measures in Response to Human Rights Violations in Gaza

Brussels, June 18th 2025

Dear Madam, Dear Sirs,

We, the undersigned civil society organisations, express our deep concern that the decisions taken during the Foreign Affairs Council meetings of the European Union on 20 and 26 May regarding the situation in Gaza remain largely insufficient in light of the international obligations of the European Union and its Member States, and the legitimate expectations of civil society.

Since October 2023, the Israeli government has pursued a policy described by Human Rights Watch, FIDH, and numerous other international organisations as constituting war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. In the face of such grave findings, we expect strong and principled action from European institutions and Member States - action in line with the values they claim to uphold.

In this context, we had expected that the political leaders of the European Union and its Member States would implement the measures available to them to thwart the current policy of the Israeli government. Words must now be matched by deeds, as there is no alternative to our accountability complicity other than successfully halting this ongoing policy. The States possess all the necessary means to act - and the time to do so is now.

The mass expulsion of the people of Gaza must not be allowed to happen. The massacre of civilians, and the use of starvation, and deprivation of water and food as weapons, must cease. Unless it is willing to be complicit in these crimes, the European Union must take decisive steps to compel Israel to lift all blockades imposed on the people of Gaza.

A range of measures is within the European Union's reach. We urge you to adopt them without delay, including at the forthcoming Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 23 June:

- The immediate suspension of the EU–Israel Association Agreement. The Commission has, for months, had sufficient evidence to document the grave and systematic human rights violations, including breaches of international humanitarian law, in Gaza and the West Bank, and can therefore swiftly assess Israel’s non-compliance with Article 2 of the agreement;
- The implementation of targeted sanctions against the Israeli government and its officials, similar to those already imposed on certain extremist settlers;
- The immediate cessation of all military cooperation and all transfers of weapons or equipment intended for their production;
- The strict application of international resolutions, notably the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 18 September 2024, which aims to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories;
- Full compliance with and enforcement of the decisions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and execution of the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against suspected perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- Recognition of the State of Palestine by the European Union and all Member States that have not yet done so;
- Sustained pressure on the Israeli government to ensure the immediate release of hostages taken during the attacks of 7 October—a cause to which our organisations remain steadfastly committed.

As the European Commission and Member States affirm that European policymaking must involve substantive dialogue with civil society actors, we respectfully request that a delegation from our organisations be received at the earliest possible opportunity. Given the urgent nature of the current crisis, we hope to persuade you to take up the demands of European civil society concerning the war in Gaza and the inhumane situation it has produced.

We remain at your disposal to agree on a meeting on 23 June or as soon as possible and hope that you will respond positively to this request, in the name of the universal principles of human rights.

Please accept, Madam, Sirs, the expression of our highest consideration.

Signatories:

AFPS : Anne Tuillon, President of the Association France Palestine Solidarité

CGT : Sophie Binet, General secretary of the Confédération Générale du Travail

LDH : Nathalie Tehio, President of the LDH (Ligue des droits de l'Homme)

FIDH : Alice Mogwe President of the FIDH Fédération Internationale pour les droits humains

FSU : Caroline Chevé, General secretary of the Fédération Syndicale Unitaire

With the support of:

Yves Aubin de la Messuzière, former Ambassador of France

Emmanuel Daoud, Lawyer

François Dubuisson, Professor, ULB Center for International Law