

Joint Statement on the EU-Israel Association Agreement Review

19 June 2025

The undersigned human rights and humanitarian organizations and trade unions urge the EU to ensure that the ongoing review of Israel's compliance with article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement be thorough, comprehensive, and credible.

Article 2 establishes that respect for human rights and democratic principles constitutes an “essential element” of the agreement. Amid overwhelming evidence of Israel's atrocity crimes and other egregious human rights abuses against Palestinians throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), **a credible review can only reach one conclusion: that Israel is in severe non compliance with article 2.**

In light of this, we call on the European Commission and all EU Member States to support meaningful and **concrete measures**, including the **suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement**, at least in part.

We are appalled that it took the EU so long to launch this review, despite a request by Spain and Ireland already in February 2024, international court rulings, arrest warrants issued by International Criminal Court, and numerous reports by UN bodies, independent experts, prominent NGOs and scholars exposing Israel's very serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law throughout the OPT, including war crimes, crimes against humanity - including forced displacement, apartheid and extermination - and genocide.

Some of these findings were presented to EU foreign ministers in November 2024; but instead of moving towards the suspension of the agreement and taking other appropriate measures, the ministers only agreed to convene a meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council, in which they called for a ceasefire, humanitarian aid at scale, full respect for IHL, and a halting of Israel's illegal settlement policy. Israeli authorities blatantly did the exact opposite of all that, once again to no consequence for EU-Israel bilateral relations – until now.

The context in which this review is being conducted is dramatic and requires urgent and effective action. For months, Israel has completely blocked aid from entering the occupied Gaza Strip, and then tried to replace the UN-led humanitarian aid system in Gaza with military-led distribution hubs, where high numbers of killings of civilians seeking aid have been recorded. This is in breach of Israel's obligations under IHL as an occupying power, and of three binding rulings issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in January, March and May 2024, ordering Israeli authorities to allow the unhindered provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid at scale throughout Gaza to prevent a genocide.

This, along with the expansion of Israel's military operations in Gaza targeting life-sustaining infrastructures, healthcare facilities, shelters, and killing and maiming thousands of civilians since a fragile ceasefire was broken, has continued to cause unspeakable suffering to the illegally besieged Palestinians in Gaza.

As parties to the Genocide Convention, all EU member states have the obligation to “employ all means reasonably available to them” to prevent a genocide. That obligation arises not when a definitive judicial determination is made, but as soon as a state learns, or should normally

have learned, of a serious risk that genocide may be committed. The International Court of Justice provided clear guidance in that regard. EU action is long overdue.

But while Gaza might have been the trigger for launching the review of article 2 of the Association Agreement, the scope of the review is broader, concerning Israel's respect for "human rights and democratic principles". We note, in that regard, the landmark July 2024 advisory opinion by the ICJ, which found Israel's occupation of the OPT to be illegal, in breach of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and characterised by other serious violations, including systematic discrimination and racial segregation, as well as unlawful violence and displacement, demolitions, illegal settlements expansion and land seizure. In September, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution largely endorsing that ruling, and formulating a series of calls that have been ignored by Israeli authorities. Furthermore, reports from human rights groups and UN investigations also highlight torture against Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, leading to multiple deaths.

In this context, a weak or inconclusive review of Israel's compliance with article 2, and/or failure by the Commission and Council to suspend at least part of the Association Agreement, would ultimately destroy what's left of the EU's credibility - and, most importantly, it would further embolden Israeli authorities to continue their atrocity crimes and other egregious violations against the Palestinians in total impunity.

The EU must act now, as it long should have.

SIGNATORIES *(Last update: 23rd June)*

1. 11.11.11
2. Academics for Palestine
3. ACEP
4. Action for Women
5. ActionAid Denmark
6. ActionAid France
7. ActionAid Ireland
8. ActionAid Italy
9. ACV-CSC Belgium
10. AFPS
11. Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
12. Ambasada Rog
13. Amnesty International
14. ARSIS - Association for the Social Support of Youth
15. Associação Intervenção Democrática - ID
16. Association Belgo-Palestinienne WB
17. Association des Universitaires pour le Respect du Droit International en Palestine (AURDIP)
18. AVAAZ
19. Belgian Academics and Artists for Palestine (BA4P)
20. Bloody Sunday Trust
21. Broederlijk Delen
22. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
23. Centre for Global Education
24. CGT (Confédération générale du Travail)
25. Changemakers Lab
26. Child Rights International Network (CRIN)

27. Christian Aid Ireland
28. CIDAC
29. CIDSE - international family of Catholic social justice organisations
30. CNCD-11.11.11
31. Collectif Judéo-Arabe et Citoyen pour la Palestine (CJACP)
32. Comhlámh
33. Comité de Solidariedade com a Palestina
34. Comité de Solidaridad con la Causa Árabe
35. Cospe
36. CRID
37. Culture de Palestine
38. Danes je nov dan
39. De-Colonizer
40. Defence for Children International
41. Diakonia
42. DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture
43. Društvo Humanitas - center za globalno učenje in sodelovanje
44. Dutch Scholars for Palestine
45. EDUCO
46. Ekö
47. Entraide et Fraternité
48. Equal Legal Aid
49. Eurocadres
50. EuroMed Rights
51. European Coordination of Committees and Association for Palestine - ECCP
52. European Jews for Palestine
53. European Middle East Project (EuMEP)
54. European Trade Union Network for Justice in Palestine
55. Fédération Artisans du Monde
56. Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid
57. FENPROF - Federação Nacional dos Professores
58. FGTB-ABVV
59. Finnish Arab Friendship Society
60. Finnish Development NGOs - Fingo
61. Finnwatch ry
62. Fundación Mundubat
63. Gibanje za pravice Palestincev
64. Hellenic League for Human Rights
65. Human Rights Watch
66. Humanity & Inclusion - Handicap International
67. HUSOME
68. Institute 8th of March
69. International Federation for Human Rights - FIDH
70. International Media Support
71. International Rehabilitation Council of Torture Victims (IRCT)
72. Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign
73. Irish Anti War Movement
74. Irish Council for Civil Liberties
75. Israelitas Pela Palestina (Portugal)
76. Jewish Call for Peace
77. Judeus pela Paz e Justiça
78. Kairos Ireland
79. La Cimade
80. La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo
81. LAB Sindikatua Basque Country

82. Mouvement de la paix france
83. MPPM - Movimento pelos Direitos do Povo Palestino e pela Paz no Médio Oriente
84. My Voice, My Choice
85. NWRG (New Weapons Research Group) odv
86. Olof Palme International Center
87. OTC-Organização dos Trabalhadores Científicos
88. OVCA - society for awareness raising and protection - center of antidiscrimination
89. Oxfam Ireland
90. Parents for Peace
91. PAX
92. Pax Christi International
93. Pax Christi Vlaanderen (Belgium)
94. Peace Institute
95. PIC - Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
96. Plan International EU Liaison Office
97. Plataforma por Empresas Responsables
98. Plateforme des ONG françaises pour la Palestine
99. Polish-Palestinian Justice Initiative KAKTUS
100. Proja institute
101. Research and Universities for Palestine Network-Italy
102. Sadaka-the Ireland Palestine Alliance
103. Samos Volunteers
104. SB OVERSEAS - SOUTIEN BELGE OUTRE-FRONTIERES
105. SETEM Catalunya
106. Sindicato dos Professores da Região Centro
107. Sindikat Mladi plus (Trade Union Youth Plus)
108. Slovene Philanthropy, Association for the Promotion of Volunteering
109. SOLIDAR
110. Solsoc
111. SPZS
112. The European Legal Support Center (ELSC)
113. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
114. The Palestine Solidarity Association of Sweden
115. The Rights Forum
116. Trinity College Dublin Students' Union/ Aontas Mac Léinn Choláiste na Tríonóide
117. UGT SPAIN
118. União dos Sindicatos do Algarve/CGTP-IN
119. Union juive française pour la paix
120. Union syndicale Solidaires
121. United Against Inhumanity (UAI)
122. Viva Salud
123. Vrede vzw (Belgium)
124. Vredesactie
125. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
126. Yoga and Sport With Refugees
127. Zavod 3MUHE