

**European Parliament**

2019-2024



---

*Plenary sitting*

---

16.10.2023

B9-XXXX/2023

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

pursuant to Rule 132 of the Rules of Procedure

Despicable terrorist attacks of Hamas against Israel

**Jordi Solé,**

on behalf of Greens/EFA Group

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Israel-Palestine conflict,
  - having regard to the statement by High Representative Josep Borrell on behalf of the European Union on the attacks against Israel, from 7 October 2023 and the HRVP's press remarks after informal meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers from 10 October 2023,
  - having regard to the statement of the members of the European Council on the situation in the Middle East, from 15 October 2023,
  - having regard to the UN Security Council resolutions on the Israel-Palestine conflict,
  - having regard to the UN Commission of Inquiry collecting evidence of war crimes committed by all sides in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories since 7 October 2023
  - having regard to the statement of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk from 10 October 2023,
  - having regard to the statement of the Foreign Ministers of the League of Arab States from 11 October,
  - having regard to the EU Guidelines on International Humanitarian Law,
  - having regard to the 1993 Oslo Accord,
  - having regard to the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002,
  - having regard to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, published in September 2022,
  - having regard to the UN human rights conventions and international humanitarian law treaties to which Israel, Palestine and EU Member States are States Parties,
  - having regard to Rule 132 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas in the early morning on 7 October 2023 Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) launched a terror attack against Israel and its people;
- B. whereas after shooting thousands of rockets on Israeli territory, Hamas and PIJ broke through Israeli military posts and the security fence around Gaza or flew over the barrier in motorised hang gliders, entered bordering Israeli towns and arbitrarily killed over 1400 Israeli civilians and soldiers and leaving thousands wounded; whereas for

Israel, the attacks from 7 October represent the highest fatalities in the history of the country;

- C. whereas Hamas and PIJ abducted at least 150 persons from Israel, including many civilians and a number of EU nationals; whereas on 9 October Hamas threatened to kill hostages should Israel attack Gaza without warning;
- D. whereas since 7 October the Israeli army has bombed several thousand Hamas and PIJ targets and in the course of six days dropped more than 6000 bombs on Gaza;; whereas over 2600 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, ten thousands wounded, and over one million Gazans, half the strip's population, have been displaced within the strip so far; whereas according to Human Rights Watch Israel white phosphorus is being used in military operations in Gaza and Lebanon; whereas according to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) 14 of the UN agency's staff members have been killed as a result of the airstrikes;
- E. whereas Israel imposed a "complete siege" of the Gaza strip on 9 October, cutting electricity, food, water and fuel supply; whereas Israeli authorities have called upon Palestinians in Gaza to leave the Gaza strip while all border crossings are sealed; whereas on 13 October the Israeli military demanded the relocation of 1.1 million Palestinians in northern Gaza towards southern Gaza within 24 hours; whereas since 13 October hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have fled south exposing themselves to continuing air raids; whereas the UN and the Secretary of the Norwegian Refugee Council said that such transfer is neither possible nor legal without guarantees of safe return and warned of "devastating humanitarian consequences";
- F. whereas the Rafah border crossing from Gaza to Egypt remains closed; whereas according to reports only some foreign passport holders will be allowed to leave Gaza through the border crossing; whereas hundreds of metric tons of aid from several countries are held up in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula pending a deal for delivery to Gaza;
- G. Whereas according to Israeli authorities as many as 300,000 Israeli troops are deployed near Gaza preparing for a ground offensive;
- H. Whereas since 7 October there have been several violent skirmishes between Hezbollah the Israeli military in Southern Lebanon;
- I. whereas the humanitarian and human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, has been deteriorating since years in large part due to Israel's prolonged occupation of the Palestinian territories and the policies that sustain it;; whereas the 16-year old illegal blockade imposed on the Gaza strip and periodic military incursions have led to a very critical humanitarian and socioeconomic situation and a near total dependency on foreign aid; whereas according to the World Bank 53% of Gazans live under the poverty line; whereas over half of the population in Gaza are minors;
- J. whereas following Hamas' victory of the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections, which was not recognised by the international community, including the EU, the militant group violently took over the Gaza strip; whereas Hamas governs Gaza in an authoritarian way, systematically violating basic principles of human rights and rule of law;

- K. whereas 30 years after the Oslo Accords, the Israel-Palestinian conflict remains unresolved and the continuation of the occupation and violent confrontations has caused thousands of fatalities and unmeasurable suffering; whereas on 18 September 2023 United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, noted that the urgency of the moment calls for immediate renewed commitment and stepped-up action by both sides and the international community to reversing the dangerous deterioration of the situation on the ground, the fragility of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and insufficient engagement between the parties;
- L. Whereas the European Union together with Saudi Arabia, the Arab League, in cooperation with Egypt and Jordan launched the “Peace Day Effort for Middle East Peace” on 18 September 2023 in New York, seeking to produce a peace supporting package that will maximize peace dividends for the Palestinians and Israelis;
- M. Whereas Hamas and PIJ are listed on the EU terrorist list; whereas neither Hamas, nor PIJ nor any other designated organisation or individual receive EU funds; whereas the European Union is a major donor to the Palestinian Authority and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the largest and oldest UN agency present in Gaza, delivering essential services to Palestine refugees;
- N. Whereas Hezbollah is a proxy of the Iranian regime and the Islamic Republic supports Hamas with weapons and possibly training;
- O. Whereas the International Criminal Court has opened an investigation since 2021 in the Occupied Palestinian Territories into war crimes and crimes against humanity; whereas on 10 October 2023 the office of the prosecutor of the ICC confirmed, that the court’s mandate applies to the current conflict situation;
1. Condemns in the strongest terms the brutal and deliberate terrorist attacks by terrorist organisations Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) against Israel and its people which caused over thousand deaths and amounts to war crimes; stresses that such heinous acts have no justification, and that all those responsible must be held to account;
  2. Expresses its deepest sorrow and full solidarity with the innocent victims on all sides, their families and loved ones;
  3. Calls on Hamas, PIJ and Hezbollah to immediately cease attacks on Israel; calls on both parties to immediately cease hostilities and seek a ceasefire agreement;
  4. Is appalled by the kidnapping and ill-treatment of over 150 hostages from Israel by Hamas and PIJ and calls for their immediate, unconditional, and safe release; reminds that taking hostages is prohibited by international law;
  5. Notes Israel’s right to defend itself; recalls that this right has to be exercised in full

adherence to international humanitarian law;

6. Express dismay at the increasing civilian death toll and is highly concerned about UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner's statement that there is already clear evidence that war crimes may have been committed in the latest explosion of violence in Israel and Gaza;
7. Urges all parties to exercise restraint and to immediately end violations of international humanitarian law, including the prohibition of direct attacks on civilians, the imposition of a siege, the use of prohibited weapons; hostage-taking, of indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, forcible transfers, and collective punishment;
8. Expresses concern about the disproportionality of the Israeli army's air bombing of Gaza, which is aimed at Hamas and PIJ targets, but which has already caused over 2600 deaths, ten thousands of wounded and a million displaced people, the majority of which are civilians, including children; urgently calls to the Israeli government to stop the military attack over Gaza;
9. Urgently calls on the Israeli government to immediately end the siege and restore access to food, water, electricity and gas and ensure that these reach residents of Gaza together with medical supplies and humanitarian aid; highlights that collective punishment is a war crime under international law; calls on the Israeli leadership to immediately reverse the impossible order to Palestinians to relocate in 24 hours; highlights that forcible transfer without guarantees of return is a war crime under international law;
10. Calls on Israel and Egypt to allow for humanitarian corridors for innocent civilians to leave Gaza as well as for medical professionals to move safely and help those injured; recalls that such humanitarian corridor must include the right of safe return of Palestinians to Gaza; calls on the UN and the European Commission to offer Egypt to set up and finance temporary refugee shelters; calls on Egypt to receive refugees from Gaza; condemns the bombing of Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt on 10 October and calls on the Israeli Military to cease such attacks;
11. Asks the government of Israel to reach out to the families of the hostages and consider diplomatic means to free the hostages and refrain from actions that put their lives at risk; calls on the HR/VP and the European Member States to offer Israel to help free the hostages by diplomatic means, possibly in collaboration with relevant partners in the region;
12. Reminds that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is ongoing since decades and violence has continuously bred further violence and strengthened extremists; expresses its deep concern that relations and political dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians have entirely eroded over the last years and that the protracted occupation of Palestinian territory, with amongst others the record expansion of settlements, growing settler violence, demolitions, land confiscation and evictions, has created an untenable situation and multiple human rights crisis that need to be urgently addressed; stress that violence, terrorism and incitement are fundamentally incompatible with a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

13. Urges the HR/VP and the European Member States to use all diplomatic means available to call on the parties involved to immediately cease hostilities, allow for the protection of civilians and remind actors involved of their duty to respect international humanitarian law;
14. Calls on the HR/VP and the European Member States to address the root causes of the current conflict and in coordination with its partners in the region and the international community intensify efforts for a negotiated two-state solution, in the internationally shared understanding that this offers the best chance for a viable peace settlement, with the aim of ending the recurring violence and enabling people on the Israeli and Palestinian sides to live in security, freedom, dignity and with equal rights; calls on the HR/VP to capitalise on the “Peace Day Effort for Middle East Peace” launched with the League of Arab States, with Egypt, with Jordan, with Saudi Arabia, in order to revive the Arab Peace Plan;
15. Regrets that Commission President von der Leyen travelled to Israel on 13 October without a mandate by the European Council and considers that the more balanced statements by the HR/VP and President of the Council are more in line with the longstanding position of the EU in support of international law and a peaceful solution to the conflict; calls on all EU representatives to adhere to agreed policies and framework on the issue, and reiterates the need that all EU institutions make coordinated efforts to advance towards a common recognition of the State of Palestine within the framework of the two-state-solution;
16. Calls on the HR/VP, the European Commission and the EU Member States to offer Israel any medical, psychological, or technical assistance it may require in order to address the situation of the wounded and traumatized in the country;
17. Welcomes the announcement by the European Commission from 16 October to triple humanitarian assistance to Gaza and urges international donors to follow suit; Urges Israel and Egypt to ensure that aid can be delivered on the ground to all those in need; recalls that Palestinians living in Gaza have long been subjected to human rights violations at the hands of both Hamas and the State of Israel;
18. Underlines the importance of the European Union’s reliable developmental and humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, both to the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) ; stress that Hamas’s attacks are no ground to withdraw or suspend all EU development aid to the Palestinian people; takes note of the European Commission’s announcement to review EU funds to Palestine and insists on this review to be done swiftly, in good faith, and that results are reported to the European Parliament; recalls that any announcement by official EU representatives must follow the due inter-institutional process for such decisions to be taken and announced ; denounces in this regard the serious infringement of the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement;
19. Reiterates its concern about the destabilising role the Islamic Republic and its network of violent non-state actor play in the broader Middle East region; calls on the HR/VP and European Member States to continue to use all appropriate means to increase pressure on Iranian Revolutionary Guards and effectively counter their destructive activities at home and abroad;

20. Calls on the EU and the Member States to support all initiatives to uphold accountability for the violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, notably through support to the work of the International Criminal Court whose mandate includes crimes under international law committed by all parties in the current fighting; highlights that addressing impunity must be a cornerstone of international efforts to ensuring a path towards a viable solution as ignoring human rights and enshrining impunity have resulted in mutual dehumanization;
21. Is alarmed at the circulation of false information and violent images linked to the conflict on the social network X; recalls that the Digital Services Act sets legal obligations for platforms such as X to remove illegal content promptly;
22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, and the President of the Palestinian Authority;