

Resolution for Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel

The Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) and its member organisations are gravely concerned by the ongoing situation in Palestine and Israel. We are particularly disturbed by the far-right Israeli Government's flagrant disregard for the ICJ's ruling that Israel must halt its military operations in Rafah and Gaza on the grounds that such actions could lead to conditions conducive to genocide (United Nations, 2023). As a federation, the overwhelming majority of our member organisations consider this to be an ongoing genocide, while others consider that this statement needs to be ruled by an international court. Without reservation, our entire federation considers it essential to stop the crimes that we condemn with this resolution.

This resolution is borne out of the recognition that the European Union (EU), the governments of EU member states and other European countries bear a historical responsibility to do everything in their power to stop any genocidal developments in the world and to help work towards peace.

FYEG condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the horrific terrorist attacks of October 7th, in which Hamas abducted hundreds of civilians in a surprise assault targeting a music festival, public spaces, and people's homes (BBC, 2023). These attacks, in which there are widespread reports of rape, constitute war crimes (Human Rights Watch, 2023). Hamas must immediately and unconditionally release all hostages.

We also recognise the decades of systemic oppression of Palestinians under the Israeli state, and the failure of liberal democracies of the West to play a useful role in the establishment of Peace and enforcement of UN resolutions in the area. Movement restrictions, such as the network of checkpoints and a complex permit system, severely hinder the daily lives of Palestinians, impacting access to education, healthcare, employment, and family life (United Nations, 2023). Land confiscation and settlement expansion policies in the West Bank and East Jerusalem forcibly displace Palestinian families and consolidate Israeli control over critical resources (Amnesty International, 2021). The dual legal system in the West Bank, where Israeli settlers are subject to Israeli civil law while Palestinians are governed by military law, further entrenches discrimination and inequality (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2022). Discriminatory urban planning policies result in the demolition of Palestinian homes and severe building restrictions, leading to forced displacement and hindering Palestinian development (Human Rights Watch, 2020). According to the ICJ advisory opinion of 19 July 2024, these policies and practices violate Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which condemns racial segregation and apartheid.

The blockade on Gaza, imposed since 2007, restricts the movement of people and goods, exacerbating poverty and humanitarian crises (United Nations, 2021). Throughout history, violence by Israel against Palestinians has been marked by atrocities. Notable examples include the massacres of Deir Yassin, Lydda, and Al-Dawayima in 1948, the Khan Yunis,

Rafah, and Kafr Qasim massacres in 1956, and various acts of violence during the 1967 Six-Day War (Palestinian Return Centre). Recent conflicts, such as the May 2021 conflict, have seen Israeli airstrikes resulting in unacceptable civilian casualties, as exemplified by the strikes on Al-Wahda Street in Gaza City and the al-Shati refugee camp (Human Rights Watch, 2021). At the same time, Hamas and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation have both enacted incidents of brutal violence against Israeli civilians, including through kidnappings, bombings and other attacks. These acts, which have on occasion been supported and instrumentalised by other countries in the region, have played an important role in escalating the current situation.

Since October 7th, the Israeli Government's response has escalated dramatically, committing actions that amount to war crimes and state terrorism (Amnesty International, 2023). Numerous Israeli airstrikes have targeted densely populated areas in Gaza, leading to significant civilian casualties (Human Rights Watch, 2023). On October 17, 2023, the Israeli military brutally attacked Al Ahli Hospital, killing over 470 civilians (United Nations, 2023) and the UNRWA school in Al Maghazi Refugee Camp, which sheltered around 4,000 displaced people (United Nations, 2023). These heinous attacks not only cause immediate and unacceptable loss of human life but also obliterate essential civilian infrastructure, exacerbating civilian suffering (Amnesty International, 2023). Additionally, the large-scale evacuations ordered in northern Gaza on October 15, 2023, result in forced displacement without adequate provisions or safe relocation areas, flagrantly violating international humanitarian law (Human Rights Watch, 2023). The complete siege of Gaza, cutting off vital supplies like food, water, and medicine, amounts to collective punishment with catastrophic consequences for the civilian population (United Nations, 2023). The use of white phosphorus in densely populated areas, such as the attack on Gaza City port on October 11, 2023, verified by Human Rights Watch, is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law (Human Rights Watch, 2023). Attacks on humanitarian workers, including the drone strike on World Central Kitchen Workers on April 1, 2024, and a Doctors Without Borders convoy on November 18, 2023, are egregious impediments to humanitarian efforts and violate international protections for humanitarian personnel (Médecins Sans Frontières, 2023). From prisons and detention camps, there is widespread evidence of Palestinians being tortured and raped by IDF soldiers. As the International Rescue Committee stated, due to the actions of the Israeli military, "Gaza is the most dangerous place in the world to be an aid worker, as well as the most dangerous place to be a civilian" (International Rescue Committee, 2023).

The Israeli Parliament's vote against even the two-state solution is yet more evidence that the political leadership in the country does not take seriously the peaceful resolution of this conflict or the rights of Palestinians, and makes clear their intent to eradicate Palestine (The Guardian, 2023).

The illegal actions of the Israeli government are not reflective of the totality of the citizens of Israel, Jewish faith or the global Jewish community, and to suggest otherwise is antisemitic. Rhetoric which downplays the seriousness of the Holocaust is Holocaust denialism and is, in turn, antisemitic. Likewise, Islamist terrorist organisations, that mostly target and terrorise the peoples living in countries with a Muslim majority, do not represent Islam or the global Muslim community, and to suggest otherwise is Islamophobic. FYEG is committed to the eradication of antisemitism, Islamophobia and other racial, ethnic or religious discrimination in all forms. Europe is experiencing a rise in antisemitism and anti-Muslim racism all over

Europe (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2023). We strongly condemn all incidents against Jewish and Muslim communities and institutions. Every incident is an attack against our shared values, our democracy, and our pluralistic societies.

The further escalation of this conflict outside of the borders of Israel and Palestine is of grave concern, stoking the fears of a wider regional conflict in the Middle East which historically have always led to the deprivation of Palestinians' lives, lands and livelihood. We acknowledge that both the Palestinian and Israeli Governments are far from the standards we demand when it comes to safeguarding LGBTQ+ rights, especially trans and queer rights, in the region. As FYEG, this is not in line with our core values of LGBTQ+ liberation and cannot be accepted. We demand that both bodies quickly implement legislation to protect LGBTQ+ communities in their respective territories; we see sprouts of protection for gay people in Israel, but we condemn the Netanyahu government and the IDF for instrumentalising queer rights in the current context. We will push especially for the protection of trans and non-binary people both in Israel and Palestine, as those are some of the most vulnerable individuals of the community. The future of the region cannot be feasible without the protection of Gender and sexual minorities.

The international community has repeatedly called for Israel to end its oppressive practices and adhere to international law (United Nations, 2023). However, Israel's actions continue unabated, leading to widespread condemnation and calls for accountability (Amnesty International, 2023). We, the Federation of Young European Greens, are adding our collective voice to this call.

The Federation of Young European Greens calls upon the EU, the governments of EU member states and other European states to:

- Recognise the gravity of the ongoing breach of international law and crimes, which the overwhelming majority of FYEG Member Organisations consider to be an ongoing genocide, while others consider that this statement needs to be ruled by an international court, and to prevent them from further happening.
- Recognise the right of Palestinian and Israeli people to self-determination, while also reaffirming support for a solution that enables durable peace grounded in equality and human rights.
- Recognise the state of Palestine, with its capital in Jerusalem, and welcome it into the UN.
- Sustain humanitarian aid for Palestine by all means necessary, including increased support for UNRWA and advocating for an end to the increasingly dire famine and health conditions, such as the outbreak of polio, affecting the Palestinians.
- Condemn the criminalisation and police violence against Palestine protestors in Europe.
- Condemn antisemitic and islamophobic hate speech and acts of hatred online, in public and elsewhere in Europe and beyond as well as attacks on various demonstrations.
- Impose targeted sanctions on Israeli and Hamas leadership figures, individuals and entities implicated in the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or human right abuses. Such sanctions can include travel bans, asset freezes, and restrictions on financial transactions.

- Divest public bodies from companies involved in human rights abuses or war crimes.
- Ensure Israel abides by Article 2 of the EU-Israel association agreement, respecting human rights and democratic principles, and establish a pathway to terminate the agreement if deemed necessary over concerns for human rights and democratic principles
- Prohibit the import of all Israeli goods and services from the Occupied Palestinian territories.
- Review the possibility of suspending Israel's membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- End the sale, export and transfer of weapons and other military technology and equipment to Israel, used in the context of an offensive attack on civilians, as well as the purchase of Israeli weapons.
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of all relations, such as economic ones, with the far right government of Israel, with a view toward suspension or termination where appropriate.
- Promote divestment from companies supporting human rights abuses or war crimes.
- Pause current research cooperations with Israeli public and private institutions (for example through EU and EIB funding), which lead to the development of weapons, dual-use or surveillance technologies used to commit violations of international law.
- Prevent individuals and institutions that have been proven to support or facilitate Israel's occupation of Palestine from participating in international sporting and cultural events.
- Increase funding for political education about the conflict, antisemitism, and anti-Muslim racism, and strengthen youth exchange programmes between Europeans, Israelis, and Palestinians.
- Put resources into tackling the horrifying increase in Islamophobia and antisemitism witnessed in Europe. This should include increasing funding for political education about the conflict, antisemitism, and anti-Muslim racism, and strengthening youth exchange programmes between Europeans, Israelis, and Palestinians. At the same time, antisemitic and islamophobic behaviour, including by protestors, should be condemned.

Furthermore, to offer a perspective of just peace and mutual prosperity for all peoples in both Palestine and Israel, we call upon the Israeli government to:

- Cease and dismantle illegal settlements and return land to rightful Palestinian owners in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions 242, 252, and 446.
- Immediately release all Palestinians arbitrarily detained, particularly minors.
- Stop using administrative detention and ensure the right to a fair trial.
- Withdraw forces to internationally recognised Israeli territory.
- All Palestinian and Israelis must be allowed to move freely. Safety controls can only be implemented for proven safety reasons, such as an active state of war or acts of terrorism, and must not continue to be used as a means of discrimination against Palestinians, or to reduce the freedom of movement in the future .
- Facilitate humanitarian aid and supplies into Palestine and ensure unimpeded access for humanitarian actors.

- Address the increase in settler violence and end the use of excessive force by the Israeli military in the West Bank, which have led to killings, injuries, displacement, and increased movement restrictions.
- End the sea and land blockade on Gaza immediately.

Similarly, we call upon the political leadership in both Israel and Palestine to:

- Implement an immediate and permanent ceasefire.
- Abide by international treaties promoting peace and security, including the Geneva Convention and the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- Negotiate a just solution for Palestinian refugees' right to return, with appropriate compensation for those who do not return.
- Cooperate with all ICC arrest warrants.
- Guarantee full human, civil, and political rights for all, regardless of religion or ethnicity.
- Respect and promote a tolerant environment for the free practice of all religious confessions, including the physical integrity and granted access to religious buildings and spaces.
- Respect the freedom of opinion and expression of parliamentarians, journalists, artists and all other civilians and to make sure that people are freely able to exercise these rights in a safe and respectful environment.

Finally, we call upon the international community to:

- -Do everything in its power to de-escalate the conflict and prevent its spreading elsewhere.
- -Carry out full and independent investigations into all potential violations of international law (Human Rights Watch, 2023).
- -Hold those who break international law accountable and support the work of the International Criminal Court (International Criminal Court, 2023).
- -pressure all countries that are directly or indirectly involved, such as Israel, USA, Iran and Qatar must become members of the ICC and start working with it.
- -Enforce warrants issued by the International Criminal Court. This must begin with the end to the active blocking of ICC jurisdiction by the UK and US Governments (The Guardian, 2023). At the same time, Qatar, which is used as a residence by some Hamas leaders to escape justice, must cooperate with the Court (United Nations, 2023). "
- Formally join the case "Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)" at the ICJ, a step that will increase international pressure on the Israeli government to end its atrocities in Gaza.

Conclusion

The Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) stands firm in its commitment to justice, peace, and the protection of human rights. We call for sustainable and long-term solutions to address the root causes of the situation, and we express our solidarity with all victims. The

international community must act decisively to end the violence and support a just and lasting resolution.

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