

Motion

Assuring Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel

signed by: Young European Greens (FYEG)

co-signed by: Spanish Youth Council (CJE)

For the past two years, there has been an ongoing military operation and invasion of the Gaza Strip conducted by the State of Israel. This has led to the highest loss of life due to military conflict in the region since 1948. Tens of thousands of civilians, many of them women and children, have been killed. The principle of distinguishing civilians from combatants, a cornerstone of international humanitarian law, has been repeatedly violated, with health workers, journalists, and civilian infrastructure deliberately targeted. The UN Human Rights Council and the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory have found that Israeli authorities have acted with genocidal intent in Gaza.

Under Article II of the 1948 Genocide Convention, genocide includes acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. These acts are evident in Gaza through:

- Mass killing and serious harm to Palestinians;
- The total siege and obstruction of humanitarian aid;
- The destruction of healthcare and education systems;
- Sexual and gender-based violence;
- Targeting of children;
- Systematic attacks on religious and cultural sites.

We call on all States to fulfil their obligations under the Genocide Convention to prevent and punish genocide, and to cooperate fully with international judicial bodies. Israel must comply immediately with all provisional measures and rulings of the International Court of Justice in *South Africa v. Israel*.¹

As the biggest platform of youth organisations in the continent, whose foundation is rooted in the respect for human rights, peace, dignity and justice, the European Youth Forum calls on

the member states of the Council of Europe to act. There is a necessity to call on governments to uphold their obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention and the Responsibility to Protect. This motion is therefore urgent and necessary to uphold international law and demand accountability. By amplifying youth voices, it can remind states of their duty to take all possible measures to prevent genocide and to act when atrocity crimes are at risk of occurring.

These previously mentioned acts must be understood in the broader context of a protracted conflict, characterised by decades of violence, insecurity, and fear endured by both Palestinian and Israeli civilian populations, underscoring the urgent need for compliance with international law and protection of civilians on all sides. It is clear that this conflict not only affects people in the region, but has an impact on the whole world. People of the Muslim and Jewish faith are exposed to increasing hatred and discrimination. In addition, activists and even some individual experts are experiencing increasing repression all over the world.

The terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023 constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law. During these attacks, thousands of civilians were unlawfully killed or injured, and others were abducted. These acts contravene Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949², which prohibits violence to life and person, the taking of hostages, and outrages upon personal dignity. The abduction and continued detention of civilians also violate the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages (1979). Depending on their scope and intent, these acts may fall within the jurisdiction of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998), as they potentially constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Following the attacks, the Israeli military response has represented a significant escalation of the conflict. According to UN assessments, the Israeli military operation is driven by an intent that could result in the destruction of Palestine in its entirety. From October 2023 to July 2025, at least 60,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza

1 UNHRC, 2025.

2 Geneva Conventions III, 1949.

Strip, with the actual figure likely higher.³ Reports indicate that Israeli authorities have deliberately concealed information to manipulate the narrative, including attempts to misrepresent first responders as military personnel.⁴

Particularly concerning is the deliberate targeting of protected persons and civilian infrastructure. At least 1,581 health workers have been killed in Gaza, and those remaining operate under constant threat to their lives and the safety of their families.⁵ Schools, hospitals, and mosques have been damaged or destroyed,⁶ constituting direct attacks on designated safety zones in violation of Article 14 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.⁷ These actions reflect a troubling lack of distinction between military targets and civilians.

Reporting on ongoing events has been further diminished due to the targeting and killing of journalists. Preliminary data from the Committee to Protect Journalists indicates that at least 237 journalists have been killed during the conflict.⁸ This deliberate targeting represents a serious breach of Geneva Convention protections and undermines transparency and accountability.⁹

Beyond the immediate violence, there have been calls by certain states and political actors to depopulate or repurpose Gaza for business ventures. Any peace plan must be representative of the will of all affected communities, particularly those who have borne the brunt of the conflict. Moreover, the youth perspective must be incorporated into any peace plan, as they live with the consequences of such plans the longest. Externally imposed solutions that disregard the agency of Gaza's residents risk perpetuating injustice and instability.

The recent ceasefire agreement between Israel and Palestinian factions marks a crucial yet fragile moment in the ongoing conflict. While it has brought temporary relief to civilians in Gaza and southern Israel, reports indicate continued violations, restric-

tions on humanitarian access, and sporadic attacks on civilians. The ceasefire must not be treated as an end in itself, but as a necessary step toward a sustainable and just peace process grounded in accountability, equality, and adherence to international law. It provides an opportunity for the international community to intensify diplomatic pressure to ensure compliance, facilitate humanitarian aid, and support mechanisms for reconstruction and transitional justice. Youth voices must play a central role in advocating for peacebuilding processes that prioritise civilian protection, human dignity, and lasting reconciliation. All actions and programs implemented must take into account UN Security Council resolutions 2250 and 2535.

In regards to all of the above, the European Youth Forum and its member organisations:

- Welcome the release of most hostages, but stress the urgent need for the safe release of all remaining detainees.
- Condemn the terrorist attacks by Hamas, and recognise the gravity of the attacks on October 7th 2023 which targeted Israeli civilians.
- Recognise that, in line with the findings of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry, Israeli authorities have acted with genocidal intent in the Gaza strip.
- Demand an end to the military siege and blockade of the Gaza strip and for the military of Israel to retreat within the internationally recognised pre-1967 borders.
- Denounce all illegal settlements, and calls for the return of land to Palestinian owners in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions 242, 252, and 446.
- Recognise the unlawful occupation of Palestinian territory.

3 OCHA Update #311, 2025.

4 UNHRC, 2025, point 185.

5 Reliefweb, 2025.

6 UNRWA, #181,2025.

7 IV Geneva Convention, Art. 14.

8 Committee to Protect Journalists, updated 2025.

9 Protocol I, art. 79, 1977.

- Support the right of return for Palestinians displaced by violence or repression.
- Demand an end to the man-made famine in Gaza, and calls on the State of Israel to restore the flow of humanitarian aid.
- Recognise and condemn 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.
- Call on all parties to fully respect and implement the terms of the recent ceasefire, including the cessation of hostilities, the opening of humanitarian corridors, and the facilitation of unimpeded access to medical, food, and reconstruction aid under international supervision.¹⁰
- Urge the European Union and its Member States to support an international monitoring mechanism to ensure that ceasefire violations are documented transparently, and that perpetrators are held accountable through existing international legal frameworks, including the International Criminal Court.¹¹
- Condemn the attacks on aid workers, doctors, and other assistance personnel.
- Express support for UNRWA, and calls for urgent measures to address the worsening famine and health conditions in Gaza.
- Commit to calling on European governments to respect and comply with the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.
- Reaffirm the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination, while supporting a solution that ensures a durable peace based on equality, reconciliation, and human rights.

¹⁰ UNGA Resolution, A/RES/ES-10/21.

¹¹ Customary IHL, Rule 55.

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