



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

16.9.2014

B8-0116/2014

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on Israel and Palestine after the Gaza war and the role of the EU
(2014/2845(RSP))

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on behalf of the EFDD Group

B8-0116/2014

**European Parliament resolution on Israel and Palestine after the Gaza war and the role of the EU
(2014/2845(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law,
 - having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
 - having regard to the UN Security Council press statement of 12 July 2014 and to Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon's statement of 13 July 2014,
 - having regard to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto,
 - having regard to the UN human rights conventions to which Israel and Palestine are states parties,
 - having regard to the latest reports adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on the Occupied Palestinian Territory,
 - having regard to the ceasefire agreement of 26 August 2014 reached in Egypt,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas it has repeatedly expressed its support for the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, and whereas their right to have their own state is unquestionable;
- B. whereas Egypt is playing a key role in reaching the ceasefire and creating the best conditions for a long-lasting peace agreement;
- C. whereas UN figures suggest that 2 139 Palestinians were killed, including 490 children, while approximately 500 000 Gaza residents have been displaced and 20 000 homes in Gaza have been destroyed, and 80 Israelis were killed during the violence, including one child;
- D. whereas 33 Palestinian members of parliament, two ministers and 7 000 Palestinians civilians are currently being held in Israeli jails, including around 500 people in administrative detention without having been charged or receiving a trial;
- E. whereas EUBAM Rafah (The European Union Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point) suspended its operations at the Rafah Crossing Point in 2007;
- F. whereas on 3 July 2013 the Council of the European Union decided to extend the mandate of EUBAM Rafah for a further 12 months, from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 on the basis of its current mandate;

- G. whereas EUBAM Rafah has not been redeployed at the Rafah Crossing Point since 2007 due to Hamas' control of the Gaza strip; whereas, nevertheless, the EU is maintaining the acquis of the AMA and its important third-party role, and stands ready to redeploy to the crossing point should the political and security conditions allow;
- H. whereas the majority of the Palestinian Parliament members currently being held by Israel were arrested in June and July 2014;
1. Expresses, once again, its condolences to all victims of the armed conflict and to their families; strongly condemns the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by both sides;
 2. Recognises and commends the role played by Egypt in brokering a ceasefire; supports the Egyptian authorities in their continued work with the Israelis and Palestinians in establishing a long-term ceasefire and in distinguishing its strategic role as a current and future mediator of a peaceful resolution; welcomes recent reports that the Egyptians are due to commence talks on a permanent ceasefire;
 3. Welcomes the bilateral decision by the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority to accept the Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza; calls on both sides to respect all the terms of the ceasefire;
 4. Calls on the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority to mutually recognise possibility implementing a two-state solution in the future;
 5. Calls on both sides to honour the terms of the ceasefire and, in particular, the decision to re-extend the fishing zone to 6 nautical miles and eventually to 12;
 6. Calls on the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority to ensure the immediate application of the ceasefire terms and asks that both parties fulfil the ceasefire conditions, as this is a bilateral interest and a condition for long-lasting peace in the region and the creation of the best possible conditions for accelerating the second round of peace negotiations;
 7. Encourages key regional actors, in particular Egypt and Jordan, to continue their efforts to calm the situation and achieve concrete results;
 8. Stresses, once again, the fact that the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians cannot be resolved via military means, but only through a peaceful and non-violent process; calls, once again, for the continuation of direct peace talks between the two parties;
 9. Stresses the fact that it is imperative that the Palestinian Authority, the EU, Egypt and Jordan work, in a robust manner, towards ensuring the disarmament of armed groups in Gaza and that in the future said groups cannot rearm or do not return to smuggle weapons, manufacture rockets and build tunnels;
 10. Stresses the fact that both Israeli and Palestinian citizens have the right to live in peace and security within safe and secure borders and this is to be officially accepted by both parties;

11. Urges the EU and the Member States to play a more active political role, and urges the EU to fulfil its responsibilities as an influential player and to take over in the efforts to achieve fair and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians;
12. Supports the Vice-President / High Representative in her efforts to create a credible perspective for re-launching the peace process;
13. Recalls, once again, the fact that the EU is committed to assisting with the implementation of the practical elements associated with the present agreement reached by the Palestinian Authority and Israel, and to making sure that future peace talks, including the second round in Egypt scheduled for 26 September 2014, consider lifting the blockade of Gaza, the construction of a sea port in the Gaza Strip, the reopening of the airport in Gaza, the release of Palestinian prisoners, the return of remains of Israeli soldiers and the demilitarisation of Gaza;
14. Underlines the fact that peaceful and non-violent measures are the only way to achieve fair and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians;
15. Calls for the continuation of direct peace talks between both parties;
16. Calls for an independent commission of inquiry to investigate the damages caused by the armed conflict and estimated costs of reconstruction;
17. Reiterates its strong support for the two-state solution to the conflict on the basis of the 1967 borders, having Jerusalem as capital of both states, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security;
18. Calls for the lifting of the blockade of the Gaza Strip, linked to an effective control mechanism to prevent the smuggling of arms into Gaza;
19. Recognises Israel's legitimate security needs;
20. Calls for concrete action to allow for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza, with the EU monitoring implementation;
21. Asserts that there is an urgent need for the EU to assist with the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip;
22. Stresses the fact that all EU institutions must provide continued support to the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government in their peace negotiations to settle safe and secure borders of a future Palestinian State and safe and secure borders for Israel;
23. Calls for an independent commission of inquiry for reconstruction; believes that the EU should fully support – politically and economically – the establishment of an independent EU commission of inquiry for reconstruction that should coordinate and monitor with assistance from and participation by the EUBAM, and the use of EU funds, making sure that EU funds reach to the appropriate destination and are not used

- for tunnel construction, the procurement of weapons or other explosive materials, or any other illegal activities;
24. Calls for an independent EU commission of inquiry for reconstruction that should be created to ensure that EU funds are used to construct education and medical establishments, provide for medical staff training and respond to the primary needs of citizens;
 25. Deplores Israel's continued expansion of settlements, which are illegal under international law and constitute an obstacle to peace, in particular in this clearly unstable ceasefire situation;
 26. Call for the EU to adopt a position on the Israeli Government's announcement of 30 August 2014 regarding the expropriation of 400 hectares of land around the settlement of Etzion near Bethlehem for the benefit of the neighbouring settlement of Gvaot;
 27. Calls for an immediate lift of the blockade of Gaza to allow for the easier flow of goods and facilitate access to humanitarian aid and reconstruction equipment;
 28. Calls for the EU to underline the fact that the delivery of humanitarian assistance is protected under international humanitarian law (Article 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949) and for it to commit to ensuring accountability for any interference in this regard;
 29. Calls on Israel to narrow the security buffer along the Gaza-side borders to allow Palestinians greater access to farm land close to the border;
 30. Calls on the Palestinian Authority to assume responsibility for the administration of Gaza's borders;
 31. Notes that the European Union will continue to closely monitor the situation and its broader implications and act accordingly;
 32. Welcomed the move by Israel to release Khalid Yahya Said, a Palestinian member of parliament, from Meggido prison; calls on Israel to release without delay the 33 Palestinian members of parliament and two ministers who are still being held in Israeli administrative detention without being charged or receiving a trial, and recalls that the Palestinian members of parliament are elected on a democratic basis and that the democratic expression of all citizens should be respected;
 33. Calls on the EEAS to extend the competencies of EUBAM Rafah to an EU observation mission responsible for all EU funds designated for the region, as it has been inactive since 2007, while its mandate was extended to 2014;
 34. Calls for the EU to deploy EUBAM Rafah troops to monitor the use of EU funds in general and in particular if EU funds are to be used for the construction of a future airport and sea port in Gaza;
 35. 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 governments and parliaments of the Member States, the EU Special Representative to the Middle East Peace Process, the President of the UN General Assembly, the governments and parliaments of the UN Security Council members, the Middle East Quartet Envoy, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, the President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Government of Egypt and the Government of the Kingdom of Jordan.