



Plenary sitting

B8-0191/2018

17.4.2018

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on situation in Gaza
(2018/2663(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on situation in Gaza
(2018/2663(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the statement by the Spokesperson of HR/VP Federica Mogherini on the most recent developments in Gaza of 7 April 2018,
 - having regard to the statement by the Spokesperson of HR/VP Federica Mogherini on the planned new demonstrations in Gaza of 5 April 2018,
 - having regard to the statement by HR/VP Federica Mogherini following the events in Gaza of 31 March 2018,
 - having regard to the statement by the Spokesperson of HR/VP Federica Mogherini on the escalation of events in and around Gaza of 19 February 2018,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process of 20 June 2016, 18 January 2016 and of 20 July 2015,
 - having regard to the UN Secretary-General statement on the situation in Gaza of 5 April 2018,
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedures,
- A. whereas Hamas, an EU-designated terrorist organisation with the outmost goal of the destruction of Israel, is responsible for terrorist activities, violent riots, and inciting unrest using people as human shields and infiltration into Israel;
- B. whereas, the Great March of Return, a six-week weekly mass protest began on March 30th at the Gaza Strip, under the organisation of civil society groups, and with the support of all Palestinian factions, including Hamas;
- C. whereas on Friday 30th, tens of thousands of Palestinians gathered at encampments a few hundred metres from the Israeli border which included areas east of Khan Younis, Rafah and al-Breij; whereas during the day, hundreds of Palestinians ignored calls from the organisers and the Israeli military to stay away from the frontier, where more than 100 army sharpshooters had been deployed in anticipation of trouble;
- D. whereas during the initial protests, Israeli snipers and other soldiers opened fire on the protesters causing injuries and resulting in the loss of lives;
- E. whereas in the past weeks there has been an increase in terrorist attacks against Israel with the escalation of military incidents in and around Gaza, such as the bomb attack on February 17 that injured four Israeli soldiers; whereas there are continuous rocket attacks by militants from Gaza against Israel, whereas the European Union acknowledges Israel's legitimate security concerns;

- F. whereas the EU has repeatedly confirmed its support for the two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states and with the secure State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security, and called for the resumption of direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA);
- G. whereas achieving peace in the Middle East remains a key priority for the international community and an indispensable element for regional stability and security;
1. Reiterates Israel's legitimate security concerns and is aware of the challenges it faces;
 2. Expresses its condemnation of Hamas' terror attacks against Israel from Gaza, including rocket attacks, infiltrations to Israel and building terror tunnels;
 3. Calls on Israel to respect the fundamental right to peaceful protest and proportionality in the use of force when defending its legitimate security interests;
 4. Expresses its condemnation of the loss of life and wishes a speedy recovery to all those injured; reiterates the need of all concerned to enable the quick delivery of medical equipment to those who need it, and allow medical deferrals to hospitals outside Gaza for humanitarian reasons;
 5. Reiterates the call for utmost restraint and expresses that the priority now must be to avoid any further escalation and loss of life;
 6. Recognises the right to peaceful demonstration, but calls those leading the protests in Gaza to avoid any incitement to violence, and ensure that any protests, demonstrations and assemblies remain strictly non-violent, and do not exploit them for other means;
 7. Recalls that the situation in the Gaza Strip has to be seen within the broader context of the Middle East Peace Process and stresses that intra-Palestinian reconciliation is an important element for reaching the two-state solution;
 8. Calls for an urgent resumption of peace talks for the two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states, with the secure State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security, on the basis of the right of self-determination and full respect of international law; stresses that non-violent means and respect for human rights and humanitarian law, by both state and non-state actors, are the only way to achieve a sustainable solution and a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians;
 9. Believes that continuing violence, acts of terrorism and incitement to violence are fundamentally incompatible with advancing a peaceful two-state solution; notes that upholding the commitment to act effectively against violence, terrorism, hate speech and incitement is critical to rebuilding confidence and to avoiding escalation that will further undermine the prospects for peace;
 10. Calls for the disarmament of all terrorist groups in Gaza, and reminds that all

Palestinian factions need to increase their efforts to enable the Palestinian Authority to exert its full control over the Gaza Strip, which is crucial for improving the situation of the people in Gaza; expresses concern about the economic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and emphasises that the PA must take greater responsibility in this regard and assume its government function in the Gaza Strip, including in the fields of security and civil administration and through its presence at the Gaza crossing points;

11. 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 for the Middle East Peace Process, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Quartet Representative, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, the President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council.