



Plenary sitting

B9-0444/2023

16.10.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the despicable terrorist attacks by Hamas against Israel, Israel's right to defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law and the humanitarian situation in Gaza
(2023/2899(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

European Parliament resolution on the despicable terrorist attacks by Hamas against Israel, Israel's right to defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law and the humanitarian situation in Gaza (2023/2899(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East Peace Process,
 - having regard to the statements made since 7 October 2023 by the President of the European Parliament and the Commission President on the terrorist attacks committed by Hamas against Israel,
 - having regard to the Commission statement announcing an urgent review of its financial assistance for Palestine of 9 October 2023,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Hamas is an internationally recognised terrorist organisation espousing extreme violence; whereas its principal stated goal is to annihilate Israel; whereas since its establishment it has been responsible for many suicide bombings and other deadly attacks on civilians and Israeli soldiers; whereas in 1997 the US State Department designated Hamas a terrorist organisation, which was followed by a similar decision by the EU; whereas in 2005, Israel withdrew from Gaza entirely, leaving its administration to the Palestinian Authority;
- B. whereas despite committing bloody acts and drawing international condemnation, Hamas won the 2006 parliamentary elections and in 2007 violently seized control of the Gaza Strip from the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority; whereas since that time Hamas has seized full control over all aspects of the functioning of the Gaza Strip; whereas Hamas's initial military success resulted in a surge in its popularity among Palestinians; whereas according to polls, the majority of Palestinians support 'armed resistance' against Israel;
- C. whereas Moscow has operationally, financially and politically supported Palestinian terrorists since the 1960s; whereas there have been numerous credible reports about close contacts between the Russian and Iranian regimes and Hamas in the weeks before the recent attack; whereas Hamas officials have visited Moscow at least three times since Russia invaded Ukraine; whereas Russia's goal was to divert US attention from the war in Ukraine and its own genocidal crimes; whereas Türkiye and Qatar have privileged relations with Hamas; whereas Hamas is an ideological and security threat to many countries in the region; whereas Hamas has established close links with European radical leftist organisations;
- D. whereas in the early morning of 7 October 2023, close to the 50th anniversary of the attack that started the Yom Kippur War, Hamas launched an audacious assault into southern Israel by land, sky and sea; whereas Hamas attacked Israel by firing over 3 000

rockets, destroyed Israel's key surveillance and communication towers using drones, launched numerous paragliders and destroyed the border fence between Gaza and Israel; whereas over 2 000 Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists crossed the border and slaughtered over 1 400 men, women and children in more than 15 villages and cities and took at least 155 people hostage to Gaza, including women, young children and elderly people, including Holocaust survivors; whereas Palestinian terrorists also gunned down hundreds of innocent civilians at an outdoor dance event; whereas those killed and taken hostage included numerous foreign nationals, including European citizens; whereas Hamas reportedly prepared for the terror attack meticulously and received support from Iran;

- E. whereas thousands of Palestinians in Gaza and other Palestinian communities and diasporas worldwide celebrated Hamas's mass invasion of Israel with calls for further violence and the annihilation of Israel; whereas in some countries these protests took place despite being forbidden by the authorities;
- F. whereas among the most barbaric atrocities committed by hundreds of Palestinian terrorists against Israeli civilians and soldiers were the killing of parents in front of their children and children in front of their parents, beheadings, including of babies, the rape of women, torture, slaughter, torching to death and the burning of houses and properties with people alive inside them; whereas Hamas initially recorded its terrorist activities and atrocities and even streamed them online, but after drawing international condemnation it sought to deny having ever committed these crimes; whereas Hamas terrorists desecrated the bodies of murdered Israelis during mass celebrations of their invasion of Israel; whereas Hamas continues to indiscriminately fire hundreds of rockets daily at Israel, including at major cities and civilian areas, aiming at civilians while firing from within civilian crowds and infrastructure, both of which amount to war crimes;
- G. whereas the Palestinian Authority, Iran, certain Arab states and Russia have not condemned the atrocities committed by Hamas; whereas other Palestinian organisations, such as the Palestine Liberation Organization, initially justified the attacks and called them a 'response' to Israeli violations of Jerusalem's Christian and Muslim holy sites;
- H. whereas former Hamas chief and current leader of its diaspora office, Khaled Mashal, called for a global day of jihad; whereas following calls such as these in numerous places, worldwide protests have been organised in support of Hamas terrorists, even despite bans on open expressions of support for brutal violence; whereas in many countries terrorist threat alerts have risen;
- I. whereas the EU and its Member States have strongly condemned the crimes committed by Hamas and have repeatedly called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held in Gaza; whereas Hamas uses aid money to finance its terrorist activities and radicalise Palestinians; whereas in the light of the despicable Hamas terrorist attack against Israel, the EU and certain Member States, including Sweden and Czechia, have decided to review their aid for Palestinians;
- J. whereas the emergence of Hamas as one of the leading Palestinian organisations is linked with the spread of extremism and radicalisation beyond the borders of the Gaza

Strip; whereas it has gained new standing and influence among many Arab communities, including on the territory of the EU, but also throughout the Middle East, to an extent that may destabilise several governments;

- K. whereas Iranian proxy Hezbollah in Lebanon has fired rockets into Israel in order to provoke an escalation and open a second front on Israel's northern border; whereas Hezbollah has stated that it will join Hamas in an all out war against Israel should Israel launch a ground offensive into Gaza in response to Hamas's recent despicable terror attacks; whereas Hezbollah continues to escalate tensions on Israel's northern border, including from Syria, which is strongly influenced by Iran; whereas the US and the UK have confirmed having sent military and security support in defence of Israel, especially in the event that Hezbollah or Iran start a war against Israel; whereas Israel has reacted with constraint against Hezbollah's aggression and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have stated they are not interested in opening a new northern front;
- L. whereas there has been a surge in disinformation and deceptive imagery seeking to construct a counter-narrative that diminishes and refutes the barbarity of Hamas's despicable terrorist attack and places the blame for it on the US, Israel and the Member States in an attempt to justify such heinous acts;
- M. whereas on 13 October 2023, the Israeli army ordered Palestinian civilians to leave the northern part of the Gaza Strip due to a planned operation by the IDF to destroy Hamas in order to pre-empt and curtail the number of innocent Palestinian casualties; whereas Israel announced two evacuation routes from northern to southern Gaza, which were targeted by explosions and blockades, reportedly by Hamas, as Hamas was trying to stop people from leaving northern Gaza; whereas Hamas is using kidnapped civilians as human shields; whereas Hamas's leaders have announced that they will start killing kidnapped civilians if Israel enters Gaza; whereas since the war began, Israel has evacuated over 70 000 civilians from its southern border with Gaza and its northern border with Lebanon in order to diminish civilian casualties in case the conflict escalates further;
- N. whereas on 15 October 2023, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israel had no intention of staying in the Gaza Strip after the current round of fighting;
- O. whereas on 29 August 2021, the non-governmental organisation Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad was formally designated a terrorist organisation by the Israeli Government due to its connection with Hamas;
- P. whereas of the 21 organisations listed on the EU terror list, seven are Palestinian, including Hamas; whereas terrorism, incitement and violence are incompatible with the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; whereas the EU and the international community have repeatedly recognised Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism;
- 1. Deplores the terrorism and war crimes committed by Hamas against Israel and the Israeli people; calls for the International Committee of the Red Cross to have immediate access to all hostages, including children, women and elderly people, and for all hostages to be immediately and unconditionally released; stresses that international law and international humanitarian law must be applied at all times; reiterates Israel's right

to exist and to defend itself in accordance with international law; strongly rejects any moral equivalence between the Hamas terrorist attack and the Israeli army's operations; deplores Hamas's use of human shields – both abducted Israelis and Palestinian civilians;

2. Calls for the EU and the Member States to provide safety equipment, medical supplies, first aid kits and other crisis response material to Israel;
3. Condemns in the strongest possible terms the fact that the Palestinian Authority has not condemned the recent terrorist attacks and war crimes committed by Hamas against Israel and that some Fatah figures have even called on the West Bank to join the violence against Israel and the Israeli people; calls on the Palestinian Authority to immediately distance itself from incitement and terrorist organisations and to condemn the recent events in the strongest possible terms;
4. Expresses grave concern about reports that EU-funded water pipes were used by Hamas to produce rockets to attack Israel; reiterates that no EU funding, either directly or indirectly, may go to terrorist organisations, persons affiliated with terrorist organisations or to activities that incite hatred and violence; expresses grave concern about people affiliated with EU-listed terror organisations running or seeking to run for Palestinian political office; welcomes the announcement by the EU and several Member States, including Sweden and Czechia, to halt and review their aid for Palestinians in the light of recent events;
5. Calls for the EU, in cooperation with the Member States, to develop a comprehensive strategy aimed at halting the radicalisation of young Palestinians, both within Palestinian society and in Palestinian and Arab communities in the Member States; deplores the support for Hamas, terrorism and incitement to murder chanted on European streets and by certain political parties and personalities in Europe; urges local authorities to crack down on support for Hamas's terrorism and calls made for the murder of Jews, Americans and Christians; expresses further concern about attacks on Jewish businesses and people in Europe amid a rise in antisemitism in certain Member States among specific groups;
6. Condemns in the strongest possible terms Iran and Russia's growing interference in the Middle East, including through their support for proxies such as Hezbollah, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the criminal Assad regime and its proliferation of sophisticated missiles and drones that also undermine European security; believes that conflict, terrorism and instability on Israel's borders negatively affect the prospects for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; calls for the EU to immediately designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Hezbollah in full as terrorist organisations; calls for limiting Iranian diplomatic missions in Europe given the Islamic Republic of Iran's involvement in and support for terrorist activity;
7. Calls for an investigation to expose and condemn Hamas's international contacts, including with countries such as Russia and Iran, but also with radical leftist movements, and the ongoing support Hamas receives from around the world to spread terror;
8. Deplores the incitement to violence, eulogising of terrorists, antisemitism and hate

speech taught in Gaza schools via Palestinian Authority textbooks and additional material developed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which are taught in both UNRWA schools and Hamas-run schools in Gaza; stresses that the perpetrators of the Hamas attack on Israel are graduates of the Gaza education system, in which textbooks and other educational material developed using EU funds are taught; recalls that textbooks paid for with EU funds need to comply with UNESCO standards of peace and tolerance;

9. Recognises the efforts made by Israel and certain Arab states to normalise diplomatic relations further to the Abraham Accords and encourages the normalisation of relations with Israel despite Hamas's despicable terror attack;
10. Notes Egypt's readiness to provide humanitarian aid through its border with Gaza and to provide 'passage for citizens of third countries'; highlights that in view of the documented atrocities and rallies in support of Hamas's actions and calls to slaughter Jews, Americans and Christians, it is challenging to hastily distinguish between innocent civilians and enablers of terrorism, given that Palestinian terrorists often hide among the civilian population;
11. Fully rejects the adoption of its recommendation of 12 July 2023 to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on relations with the Palestinian Authority¹, which includes a call to release all Palestinian political prisoners, including members of Hamas and other terrorist organisations;
12. 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 Knesset and the Government of Israel, the President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council.

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2023)0283.