



Plenary sitting

B9-0447/2023

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))

Manu Pineda

on behalf of The Left Group

B9-0447/2023

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 the Charter of the United Nations,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on Israel and Palestine, in particular that of 14 December 2022 on the prospects of the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine¹,
- having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the additional protocols thereto,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 on the partition of Palestine,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 on the principles for reaching a final settlement and the returning of Palestine refugees to their homes,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 on assistance to Palestine refugees,
- having regard to subsequent UN resolutions on the situation in Palestine/Israel,
- having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998,
- having regard to the statements of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,
- having regard to the Oslo Accords between the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization of 1993 and 1995,
- having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement of 2000 establishing an association between the EU and its Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part², in particular Article 2 thereof,
- having regard to the statements of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the situation in Palestine/Israel,
- having regard to the statement of the UN Secretary-General of 9 October 2023 appealing for an end to ‘the vicious cycle of bloodshed, hatred and polarisation’, and his further statements regarding the catastrophic situation for civilians in Gaza,

¹ OJ C 177, 17.5.2023, p. 73.

² OJ L 147, 21.6.2000, p. 3.

- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 7 October 2023, Palestinian militant groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, carried out an unprecedented attack, killing over 1 300 people in Israel, most of them civilians, and kidnapping around 200; whereas Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people and they cannot be held responsible for its actions;
- B. whereas on 8 October, the Israeli authorities formally declared war on Hamas and, since then, have carried out airstrikes and artillery attacks from the sea on densely populated areas of the Gaza Strip, killing over 2 800 people; whereas different non-governmental organisations have denounced the fact that Israel is using white phosphorus in its attacks, which is prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention;
- C. whereas a number of Israeli settlements adjacent to the Gaza Strip are being evacuated; whereas Israel ordered the evacuation of more than 1 million Palestinians from the northern part of the Gaza Strip, while keeping the territory blockaded; whereas the Israeli military is preparing for a ground offensive in the Gaza Strip and has already entered areas at its borders; whereas coercing the Palestinian people into undertaking mass flight amid the ongoing lethal attacks constitutes a grave danger of mass ethnic cleansing;
- D. whereas on 9 October, the Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announced that the land, air and sea blockade that Israel has imposed on the Gaza Strip since 2007, with devastating consequences for the population, would be severely tightened to block electricity, food and fuel from entering the territory; whereas on 11 October, the only power station in Gaza stopped working because of a lack of fuel; whereas this lack of power has had a particularly devastating impact on hospitals, which have not been able to attend to the thousands of people wounded by the airstrikes;
- E. whereas the Israeli airstrikes have targeted civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals; whereas the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has denounced the fact that Israel is targeting its headquarters and that 13 of its humanitarian workers have been killed; whereas at least six Palestinian journalists have been killed while carrying out their work;
- F. whereas the right to self-defence against armed parties to a conflict and the obligation for a state to protect its people cannot be decoupled from international humanitarian law and cannot lead to the killing of innocent civilians;
- G. whereas there is also fighting on the Lebanese border, as Hezbollah has fired rockets towards Israel and Israel has launched airstrikes at Lebanese territory; whereas six people have been killed in Lebanon as a result of these airstrikes; whereas Israeli forces have launched missile attacks on airports in Syria, rendering the Damascus and Aleppo airports inoperative; whereas Israel claimed that the airports were transit points for Iranian arms sent to Hezbollah;
- H. whereas the United States has deployed one aircraft carrier, a cruiser and four destroyers to the eastern Mediterranean near Israeli ports in order to support the Israeli military; whereas a second aircraft carrier is already being deployed;

- I. whereas the current situation poses a major threat to security in the region as a whole; whereas it also has implications for peaceful coexistence within other countries, including EU Member States;
- J. whereas the EU provides vital aid to Palestine, including support specifically earmarked for the health sector and development programmes focused on job creation and access to water and energy; whereas on 9 October, Commissioner Várhelyi announced on social media that all payments to Palestine would be immediately suspended; whereas the Commission has since then stated that funding will not be suspended, but will be reviewed; whereas public aid to Palestine is subject to extensive and rigorous control to prevent it from benefiting Hamas;
- K. whereas the UN Secretary-General stated that the upsurge in violence did not arrive in a vacuum, but grew out of a long-standing conflict, with a decades-long military occupation and no political end in sight; whereas 2023 has been characterised by increasing tensions and violence in the context of the ongoing military occupation of Palestine; whereas before the ongoing attack, this was already the deadliest year for Palestinians since the UN started collecting data; whereas there are 5 200 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons, including 170 children; whereas since 7 October, at least 55 Palestinian people have been killed in the West Bank by the Israeli army and illegal settlers;
- L. whereas the Israeli authorities refuse to fulfil their obligations as an occupying power in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and continue to deny basic needs such as medical supplies or shelter to the Palestinian population; whereas the State of Israel has imposed a system with different sets of rights and obligations on the people inhabiting one single territory according to their national or ethnic origin; whereas this system has been repeatedly described as apartheid by Palestinian, Israeli and international organisations;
- M. whereas the EU must play a role in addressing the ongoing conflict; whereas relations between the EU and Israel are based on the 2000 Association Agreement, which states in its Article 2 that the Agreement is based on respect for human rights and democratic principles;
- N. whereas Israel has been associated to the EU's research and innovation framework since 1996, participating in key programmes such as Horizon Europe; whereas the EU has awarded contracts worth EUR 59 million to Israeli military technology companies; whereas the value of EU arms sales to Israel is estimated to be around EUR 200 million per year; whereas additional military aid has been promised by EU and NATO Member States to Israel in the context of the current situation;
- O. whereas the Presidents of the European Parliament and the Commission travelled to Israel to express solidarity with the Israeli people, outside of any relevant mandate and therefore exceeded their roles and responsibilities; whereas they did not have a word of compassion for the Palestinian civilians killed and they provided political support and justification for the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip;
- P. whereas individual Members of the European Parliament have been banned from entering Israeli and Palestinian territory by the Israeli authorities, including during

official European Parliament visits; whereas the European Parliament has been banned by the Israeli authorities from visiting the Gaza Strip for over a decade;

1. Condemns in the strongest terms the attacks by Hamas and other groups against Israeli civilians and expresses its deepest condolences towards the victims and their relatives; underlines that these attacks are war crimes and a violation of the Geneva Conventions;
2. Condemns, at the same time and in the strongest terms, the Israeli airstrike attacks and the use of chemical weapons against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and expresses its deepest condolences towards the victims and their relatives; underlines that these attacks are war crimes and a violation of the Geneva Conventions;
3. Calls for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the violence, the release of all hostages and strict adherence to international humanitarian law by all sides;
4. Calls on the Israeli authorities to release all Palestinian political prisoners;
5. Highlights the need to achieve a lasting and fair peace in the region in line with international law and human rights and based on UN resolutions; urges the international community, the EU, its Member States and countries in the region to take immediate action to prevent further escalation and calls for negotiations to take place under the auspices of the UN; stresses that international conflict resolution needs to take place, not through retaliation, but through the enforcement of international law to ensure the end of the occupation in Palestine; highlights that anyone who commits crimes in Israel or Palestine that go against international humanitarian law must be held accountable before a court of law;
6. Condemns Israel's policy of collective punishment against the people of Gaza, which is contrary to international humanitarian law and must be stopped; condemns the Israeli authorities' threats against the people of Gaza; highlights that forced expulsion of a population is a war crime; expresses concern about the regional implications of the flight of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip;
7. Calls for the EU, its Member States and countries in the region to ensure that the people of Gaza receive the humanitarian aid they need and calls for the creation of humanitarian corridors to ensure their access to healthcare, shelter and safety; condemns the decision by the Israeli Government to further tighten the blockade and deprive the people of Gaza of vital supplies, including water, food and electricity, and calls for the reversal of this decision;
8. Calls on the Commission and the Council to activate the Temporary Protection Directive³ in order to provide immediate access to protection for all refugees from Palestine, while ensuring their right to return;
9. Highlights the important role that EU aid plays in Palestine, particularly in key areas such as access to clean water and energy; urges the Commission not to unilaterally

³ Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (OJ L 212, 7.8.2001, p. 12).

suspend any funding; calls on Commissioner Várhelyi to stop threatening the Palestinian people and using his role for partisan purposes; highlights the need to increase humanitarian aid, particularly in the area of healthcare, to address the ongoing humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip;

10. Stresses that humanitarian actors must be protected and condemns the targeting of civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals managed by international humanitarian organisations; reaffirms UNRWA's essential contribution to the livelihoods of Palestinian refugees in a difficult context of increasing humanitarian and development needs; calls, in recognition of its status as the largest UN agency operating in Gaza, for support to UNRWA's emergency appeal to address the pressing humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip, and for the expedited release of all pending funds to UNRWA to ensure the continuity of its vital services in Gaza and the region;
11. Reminds the Israeli authorities of their obligations as an occupying power under the Geneva Conventions, including those towards the Palestinian civilian population that have not been met;
12. Urges the Israeli authorities to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip; calls on the Israeli authorities to allow humanitarian workers, journalists and other international stakeholders to access the Gaza Strip; calls on the European External Action Service to deploy personnel to the Gaza Strip once the situation allows for it and to monitor and report on the human rights situation there; regrets that some countries have chosen to stop their aid to Gaza at a time when more aid is needed; calls on the Member States to increase their aid to the Palestinian people;
13. Calls for the EU to immediately halt all transfers of arms and military technology to Israel and all other parties to the conflict, in accordance with Common Position 2008/944/CFSP⁴;
14. Urges the United States to withdraw its military forces from the eastern Mediterranean, as they are contributing to further escalation and destabilisation in the region;
15. Highlights the need to achieve a lasting and fair peace in the region in line with international law and human rights; underlines that this can only happen by re-launching the peace process and putting an end to the occupation; recalls the EU's long-standing support for a negotiated two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 lines with two sovereign, democratic states living side by side in peace and guaranteed security and in full respect of international law;
16. Stresses that the EU-Israel Association Agreement is, according to its Article 2, based on the fulfilment of human rights and that human rights are a guiding principle; calls for the suspension of the Association Agreement until the attacks on the Gaza Strip stop and there are clear guarantees on bringing an end to the systematic violations of the human rights of the Palestinian population;
17. Expresses solidarity with all the people and political forces between the Jordan River

⁴ Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP of 8 December 2008 defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment (OJ L 335, 13.12.2008, p. 99).

and the Mediterranean Sea calling for human rights, equality and peace, as well as with all those defending them globally;

18. Expresses great concern over reports from Israel of harassment, violent arrests, the suspension of students from higher education institutions and the suspension and firing of employees and workers, both Arab and Jewish, in an attempt to silence critical parts of society;
19. Calls for the EU and its Member States to protect its citizens and their institutions from all forms of racist violence and discrimination, including both antisemitism and Islamophobia; condemns the prosecution and banning of organisations for and symbols of solidarity with the Palestinian people;
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the European Council, the President of the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the presidents of the parliaments of the Member States, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean and the League of Arab States.