



PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN

Ms. Federica Mogherini  
High Representative of the EU for  
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,  
Vice-President of the European Commission,

Brussels, 2d April 2019

**RE: Protection of Healthcare Personnel, Vehicles and Medical Structures in Gaza and the last United Nations report suggesting that Israel committed crimes against humanity in responding to 2018 protests in Gaza**

Dear High Representative Federica Mogherini,

Mass protests, which have taken place in the Gaza Strip since March 30, have left more than 6,000 unarmed demonstrators shot by military snipers, hundreds of Palestinians killed, over 14,000 injured and an already precarious healthcare system near breaking point.

In the context of the ‘Great March of Return’ demonstrations in the Gaza strip, health workers, volunteers, ambulances and structures were victims of intense attacks by Israeli Security Forces despite the systematic use of visible identification means. These attacks represent serious violations of International Humanitarian Law and the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949).

The European Union and Israel have signed an Association Agreement on which it is clearly stated on its Article 2 that: "*Relations between the Parties shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement*". Israel continues failing its duty to respect and protect healthcare personnel, structures and ambulances, breaching international law.

The continued application of the EU-Israel AA despite Israel's violation of the Art.2 sends a message to Israel that attacks against Healthcare workers, infrastructures and civilian unarmed in general, are tolerated and will not result in any impact on its relations with the EU.

In another hand, the European Union suspended its association agreement and applied restrictive measures against states judged to have violated human rights and international law in recent years.

We undersigned want to know if the European Commission has taken the necessary steps in order to evaluate that Israel comply with international human rights standards in order to be in line with the full application of the article 2 of the AA.

Moreover, according to a United Nations report, evidence suggests Israel committed crimes against humanity in responding to 2018 protests in Gaza, as snipers targeted people clearly identifiable as children, health workers and journalists

The UN panel found reasonable grounds to believe that Israeli snipers shot at journalists, health workers, children and persons with disabilities, knowing they were clearly recognisable as such. Its mandate was to identify those it believed responsible for the violations, and it planned to hand over a confidential file with such information to Michele Bachelet, the UN human rights chief, who could hand it over the International Criminal Court (ICC) and national authorities.

We consider that the EU and its High Representative must take its responsibility providing international protection for the Palestinian citizens in every inch of Occupied Palestine and opening an enquiry on this suggested committed crime by the Israeli army. We ask the EU to open an inquiry on this sense in order to review the Association agreement and its compliance with the respect of human rights and democratic principles.

We look forward to hearing from you about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

1. LE HYARIC Patrick (FRANCE)
2. VERGIAT Marie-Christine (FRANCE)
3. VALLINA Angela (SPAIN)
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7. URBAN Miguel (SPAIN)
8. FERREIRA Joao (PORTUGAL)
9. COUSO Javier (SPAIN)
10. MATIAS Marisa (PORTUGAL)
11. ALBIOL Marina (SPAIN)
12. COFFERATI Sergio (ITALY)

13. STAES BART (BELGIUM)
14. VIEGAS Miguel (PORTUGAL)
15. PIMENTA LOPEZ Joao (PORTUGAL)
16. SPINELLI Barbara (ITALY)
17. BOYLAN Lynn (IRELAND)
18. LOPEZ Paloma (SPAIN)
19. SAKORAFI Sofia (GREECE)
20. ANDERSON Martina (NORTHERN IRELAND)
21. HADGIGEORGIOU Takis (CYPRUS)
22. MINEUR Anne-Marie (HOLLAND)
23. SENRA Lidia (SPAIN)
24. SANCHEZ CALDENTEY Lola (SPAIN)
25. WARD Julie (UNITED KINGDOM)
26. DE JONG Denis (HOLLAND)
27. AUKEN Magrete (SWEDEN)
28. TORRES Estefanía (SPAIN)
29. ECK Stefan (GERMANY)
30. OMARJEE Younous (FRANCE)
31. PAPANICOLAOU Dimitrios (GREECE)
32. KUNEVA Kostadinka (GREECE)
33. KOULOUGLOU Stelios (GREECE)
34. ZIMMER Gabi (GERMANY)
35. FORENZA Eleonora (ITALY)
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37. KYLLONEN Merja (FINLAND)
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39. GOMES Ana Maria (PORTUGAL)
40. MARTIN Edouard (FRANCE)
41. CARTHY Matt (IRELAND)
42. NI RIADA Liadh (IRELAND)

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CC:

- Ambassador Fernando Gentilini, MENA Managing Director, EEAS
  - Ambassador Susanna Terstal, Special Representative for the MEPP
  - Ambassador Emanuele Giaufret, Head of the EU Delegation to Israel
  - Ambassador Ralph Tarraf, EU Representative to the West Bank, Gaza Strip, UNRWA
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