WORLD EMBASSY DESK

PO BOX 5176
2900 ED
Capelle aan den IJssel,
The Netherlands
(+31) 070 – 568 09 54
www.worldembassydesk.org
info@worldembassydesk.org

PRIORITY
UNCLASSIFIED

TO:
Their Excellencies
the Heads of Government and
Ministers of Foreign Affairs of
the Member States of the European Union

Date: Tuesday, 5 August 2025
Regarding: Urgent Appeal for Compliance with
International Law and Cessation of Complicity in Violations in Palestine
File number: W25080567
Attachment: -

Your Excellencies,

The World Embassy Desk (WED) presents its compliments to Your esteemed Government and has the honour to draw its attention to pressing concerns regarding the ongoing violations of international humanitarian law and the law of armed conflict in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the responses, or lack thereof, by certain Member States of the European Union.

WED acknowledges that some EU Member States have expressed reservations or refrained from endorsing calls for sanctions or other measures against Israel, despite the growing and undeniable evidence of grave breaches of international law. It is with due respect that the WED must note the following:

A recent official EU report, dated 20 June 2025, has concluded that Israel is deliberately using starvation, including the deprivation of food to children, as a method of warfare against the Palestinian civilian population. The same report confirms that Israel is in material breach of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. Yet, despite these grave findings, some Member States have neither condemned these actions nor taken effective measures that would be expected from a rule-of-law-based state in response to such severe violations.

Under applicable international law, including the Geneva Conventions, Articles 1 and 146 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Customary International Humanitarian Law, and the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, States are obligated not only to respect but also to ensure respect for international humanitarian law. This includes the duty to refrain from rendering aid or assistance in maintaining a situation created by a serious breach of international law and to cooperate to bring it to an end.

Providing military, financial, diplomatic, or political support to a party knowingly committing war crimes or crimes against humanity may give rise to State responsibility as well as potential individual criminal responsibility. Indeed, several national courts have recently issued injunctions or rulings prohibiting their governments from cooperating militarily with Israel, citing the real risk of complicity in war crimes. Furthermore, the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants against Israeli leadership, reinforcing the legal and moral imperative to act.

The WED wishes to clarify that it does not seek to prosecute or judge your esteemed Government. Rather, we solemnly observe that a failure to condemn and act against atrocity crimes, while simultaneously offering military or diplomatic support, makes it increasingly untenable to argue against at least shared responsibility or complicity under international law.

The European Union, as a global symbol of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law, is expected by the international community to set the standard for lawful and principled conduct. Indeed, in many respects, the EU is perceived as more committed to international legality than even its North American counterparts. In this light, the silence, or selective inaction, of Member States is not merely disappointing but risks being interpreted as acceptance, or even approval, of the unlawful conduct in question.

The WED fully aware of the historical sensitivity regarding the Jewish community in Europe. However, the WED respectfully submits that the current inaction reflects a grave misjudgment, one that suggests that the EU may not have fully absorbed the lessons of its own past. Where once Europe failed the Jewish people, it is now failing the Palestinian people in a manner hauntingly similar in moral neglect.

Historically, Europe has not always upheld its obligations to humanity in moments of crisis, be it in Srebrenica, Rwanda, or through the destabilising aftermath of military engagements in Iraq and Libya. Although these precedents are acknowledged here only in passing, they provide crucial context for current expectations of moral leadership.

The recent symbolic food airdrops by some Member States, while perhaps well-intentioned, do not constitute effective or sufficient measures. Every day, Palestinians searching for food are being targeted and shot, often with lethal force and under express orders by Israeli leaders. Such acts cannot be reconciled with any legitimate notion of national security.

The WED recognises Israel's right to defend itself and protect its population from armed attacks, as any other state has. However, the principle of distinction, the prohibition of collective punishment, and the ban on starvation of civilians as a method of warfare are absolute and non-derogable. The war with Hamas does not, and cannot, justify the indiscriminate or targeted killing of civilians, nor their intentional starvation. If we are to eliminate the conditions under which organisations such as Hamas arise, we must collectively commit to upholding the human dignity and legal protections of all civilians, irrespective of identity or geography, so that people can trust that international law and order will protect them instead of feeling the need to resort to weapons.

In light of the above, the World Embassy Desk urges your esteemed Government to take immediate and effective measures to uphold its international obligations, both individually and collectively within the EU framework. If coordinated EU action is not feasible, the legal obligations on your Government remain fully applicable on an individual basis.

The WED remains at your disposal for open dialogue and stands ready to work constructively toward a lawful, principled, and mutually respectful approach that preserves your Government's sovereign interests while ensuring full compliance with international legal commitments.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

With utmost respect,

M. Taheri *LL.M*
Secretary-General