



10 June 2025

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Development Cooperation and
International Trade

H.E. Ms. Kaja Kallas
High Representative for
Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy and Vice-President of
the European Commission

Dear High Representative,

The catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza is intolerable. Unhindered access to all parts of Gaza must immediately be ensured, to enable large-scale, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

Respect for the humanitarian principles, international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be ensured. Any attempts to instrumentalise humanitarian assistance for military or political objectives, including to reduce or change Palestinian territory or to displace its population, are unacceptable.

Hamas carried out the worst terrorist attack in Israel's history on 7 October 2023. Israel has a far-reaching right to defend itself and has legitimate objectives to remove the threat from Hamas and secure the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

Still, it is becoming increasingly difficult to reconcile Israel's current methods of warfare with its obligations under international humanitarian law. Recent unacceptable statements by members of the Israeli Government reinforce this assessment as they seem to blatantly disregard the International Court of Justice's order of provisional measures.

The expansion of Israel's military operations in Gaza is yet another step away from a negotiated two-state solution, which remains the only possible path to a lasting peace. Likewise, the expansion of illegal settlements and settler violence take the parties further away from the path towards a negotiated and peaceful two-state solution.

We, as the EU, must remain firm and unwavering in our messaging. However, the repeated calls from the EU and others have proved insufficient to improve the disastrous humanitarian situation in Gaza. We welcome that a review of the fulfilment of Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement is now being carried out, in accordance with the Dutch proposal, but more options must now be put on the table.

To this end, we would encourage the Council to urgently decide on targeted sanctions against Israeli ministers who promote illegal settlement activities and actively work against a negotiated two-state solution, and additional sanctions against extremist settlers.

We look forward to advancing this work together. The current situation must not be allowed to continue.

Yours faithfully,



Maria Malmer Stenergard
Minister for Foreign Affairs



Benjamin Dousa
Minister for Development Cooperation and International Trade