

Statement by the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad
On the Growing European Positions Condemning the Crimes of the Occupation and
Calling for Concrete Measures to End the Aggression and Siege

The Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad is closely monitoring recent developments in European positions regarding the ongoing genocide perpetrated by the Zionist occupation against the Palestinian people—particularly in the Gaza Strip, which has endured unrelenting aggression for nearly 600 days. The Conference values the growing indications of a relative shift in the stance of several European governments towards this criminal reality, now laid bare before global public opinion.

In this context, the Conference welcomes the tangible steps taken by European institutions and governments in response to the actions of the Israeli occupation. Foremost among these is the statement by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Kaja Kallas, announcing the European Union's review of its Association Agreement with the occupation in light of the catastrophic situation in Gaza. The Conference also commends the British government for summoning the Israeli ambassador in London and suspending negotiations on a free trade agreement with "Israel". While these measures are long overdue, they reflect mounting public and parliamentary pressure on European governments to curtail cooperation with a state that openly violates international humanitarian law.

The Conference expresses full support for the growing calls across various European capitals to halt arms exports to the occupation and to pursue legal accountability for its leaders before international courts. It also salutes the expanding wave of popular and human rights campaigns taking up this cause, affirming that these voices represent the conscience of societies that refuse to see their taxes fund genocide and oppression.

While recognising these developments as necessary initial steps, the Conference emphasises that the magnitude of the humanitarian catastrophe and the ongoing war crimes in Gaza demand bolder, more decisive action. It is essential to move beyond symbolic statements towards concrete

measures that will halt the genocide, protect civilians, and ensure the unconditional entry of humanitarian aid.

Accordingly, the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad calls on European governments to adopt firm and effective measures, including:

1. Immediate action to end the ongoing genocide, lift the siege on the Gaza Strip unconditionally, and ensure the safe and effective delivery of medical, humanitarian, and relief aid.
2. A complete and permanent halt to the export of weapons, military equipment, and surveillance technologies to the occupation, in line with Europe's stated values and obligations under international law and recent European Parliament resolutions.
3. Meaningful support for international accountability mechanisms against the occupation and its leaders at the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, as a moral and legal imperative that must not be politicised or delayed.
4. A comprehensive review of all forms of bilateral relations with the occupation, particularly those conferring economic or security benefits, including the suspension or cancellation of agreements that contribute to funding the war machine and institutionalised oppression.

The Conference underscores that the continuation of crimes against humanity in Gaza—and the staggering number of civilian victims, especially among children and women—constitutes a serious test of Europe's credibility and the integrity of its democratic institutions. Turning a blind eye undermines what little faith remains in an international order already compromised by double standards and selective justice in its treatment of oppressed peoples.

Furthermore, the Conference reaffirms its rejection of any attempts to fragment Palestinian rights or impose partial solutions. It asserts that freedom, return, and self-determination are inalienable, non-negotiable rights. The Zionist occupation cannot be reformed or rebranded—it must be dismantled in all its colonial and apartheid forms.

Finally, the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad urges Palestinian and Arab communities, alongside all advocates of justice in Europe, to continue applying public, media, and legal pressure to isolate the occupation, expose its crimes, and support international efforts to hold it accountable—advancing the just cause of freedom for our steadfast Palestinian people.

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21

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Quote by Hisham Abu Mahfouz

Acting Secretary-General of the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad

The recent shifts in European positions—though still limited—represent a notable development in recognising the horrific reality faced by our people in Gaza. For nearly 600 days, Palestinians in the besieged Strip have endured relentless aggression and mass atrocities, while much of the international community has remained largely passive.

We at the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad welcome the steps taken by some European governments—such as reviewing partnership agreements with the occupation, summoning ambassadors, and suspending free trade negotiations—as a result of mounting grassroots and parliamentary pressure. However, we emphasise that these are only preliminary measures.

What is required now is an immediate intensification of action: the imposition of comprehensive sanctions on the occupation; the unconditional and urgent entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza; and the pursuit of full legal accountability for war crimes through international courts.

Europe has both a moral and legal duty not merely to condemn, but to act. The time for symbolic gestures has passed. What is needed now are courageous, decisive measures that stand firmly on the side of justice and humanity.

Hisham Abu Mahfouz

Acting Secretary-General
Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad
21 May 2025

Quote by Ziad Al Aloul

Spokesperson of the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad

The recent diplomatic actions taken by some European states—such as recalling ambassadors and suspending free trade negotiations with the Israeli occupation—signal growing public and civil society outrage at the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

While we acknowledge and welcome these moves, we stress that they fall far short of what is needed to address crimes of this magnitude. The lives of thousands of civilians—especially children and women—are at risk, and the credibility of Europe's professed values is being severely tested.

We urge European governments to move beyond cautious diplomacy and towards meaningful, concrete action: a total suspension of arms exports to the occupation; firm support for international legal processes to prosecute those responsible for war crimes; and a thorough reassessment of all bilateral agreements that facilitate or finance the occupation's war machinery.

No government can, in good conscience, contribute—directly or indirectly—to the ongoing suffering of an entire people. Justice demands more than words; it demands decisive and sustained action.

Ziad Al Aloul
Spokesperson
Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad
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Maher Hijazi

Head of Media Relations

Tel: +31 6 18866545