



Time is not unlimited for perpetrators of war crimes: Will the United Nations take the mandatory decision on immediate stop of the genocide in Gaza?

Open Letter

Mr. Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General United Nations

Mr. José de la Gasca

President UN Security Council

New York 10017

Via email: sgcentral@un.org

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Your Excellencies,

For two months, the world has witnessed one of the deadliest military campaigns against the Palestinian people since 1948; a planned mass assassination, with the international institutions and governments watching without response, and even more, not allowing responses in solidarity with Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

The number of deaths is inestimable, it is nevertheless counted in tens of thousands including women and children in the two months of massive bombings. More than 1,800 000 people have been displaced. The Israeli army, after having “encouraged” the Gazan population to move towards the South, is now bombing this area indiscriminately, while continuing in Northern Gaza the arrests and humiliation of prisoners, executions of families and threatening the lives of thousands seeking refuge in schools.

Homes, hospitals, schools, press centres are destroyed, journalists present in the area are targeted and deliberately murdered. This is a genocide against Palestinian people, in all aspects of life. These are war crimes. However, the United States has once again vetoed a ceasefire at the United Nations Security Council.

In the occupied West Bank, the Israeli army and settlers are carrying out brutal executions against the Palestinian population, including children. Hundreds of arrests are made, military operations night and day are increasing. Since October 7, there have been more than 250 deaths in this territory.

The UN Women has supported an integral independent investigation regarding allegations of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual abuse on October 7th, 2023. However, they failed to address the ongoing refusal of the Israeli occupation to cooperate with various international investigation commissions appointed by the UN to probe into the crimes committed against Palestinian women in the past, consequently supporting freedom of impunity for Israeli perpetrators, while claiming that protection of all women and girls is at the core of their mission.

Your Excellency Mr Antonio Guterres,

We applaud your endeavours and civil stand to invoke the rarely used Article 99 of the United Nations Charter in your attempt to reach for a ceasefire in Gaza. For us, the United Nations are the only hope for an immediate stop of this massacre of Palestinian people, for initiating a political process and

holding the responsible Israeli leaders accountable for their crimes against humanity, before the Palestinian people, before the International Criminal Court, before the world.

Your Excellency Mr. José de la Gasca,

You have stressed that Ecuador position “regarding accountability for violations of human rights in Gaza fall under the principles of international law, humanitarian law and therefore the Council’s resolutions.”

Women, children and innocent civilians in Gaza are being killed in a well elaborated planned manner in front of the eyes of the whole world. If the United Nations Security Council cannot stop this massacre, who can? And if not now, when?

Your Excellencies,

Women are the first victims of ultra conservative and militaristic violations of the rights of peoples to freedom, justice and peace.

Women are the first concerned by the occupation, militarization of conflicts, arm trade and the scale up of the rhetoric of militarism at the expenses of peoples’ lives and rights.

Women’s right to independent organizing themselves is the first to suffer by repressive regimes and occupation forces, as well as by institutions which try to silence them or deprive them from resources.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative as a policy platform has been working towards an urgent search for political solutions to conflicts, for freedom, human dignity and social justice in the region advocating for the participation of women’s rights organisations in all political peace negotiations and initiatives.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative joins the civil forces in the world who urge the immediate stop of these unspeakable crimes in Gaza, and reiterates our demands:

- An immediate and permanent ceasefire, an end to the bombings and forced displacement of the population, immediate withdrawal of the Israeli army from Gaza.
- The lifting of the blockade of Gaza in place since 2007 and immediate protection of all civilians.
- The establishment of a permanent humanitarian corridor to transport basic necessities.
- The cessation of military cooperation and an embargo on arm sales to the State of Israel.
- The release of all Palestinian political prisoners, including children and women.
- An urgent international diplomatic initiative for a just and lasting peace based on UN resolutions, in particular UN Security Council Resolution No. 242 of 1967, demanding the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from the occupied territories and the recognition of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
- The inclusion of women’s rights organizations in a regional peace process.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) is a policy platform that provides expertise in the field of equality between women and men and advocates for women’s human rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of people to self-determination.