



**President of the European Council,
High Representative/Vice-President,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain,**

Brussels, 8 december 2023

Dear President Michel,
Dear High Representative Borrell,
Dear Minister Albares,

Ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 11 December 2023 we are writing to you to express our concern about the escalation of the violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in the shadows of the ongoing war in Gaza.

Settler attacks across the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem is increasing exponentially. Since 7 October 2023 violent settlers have killed at least eight Palestinians, including one child, raiding Palestinian villages daily, assaulting residents, destroying properties, including EU funded structures and injuring dozens. With 446 Palestinians killed, already now, 2023 will be the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank, since the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) record. More than half the fatalities occurred since 7 October 2023.¹

Against this backdrop, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken this week announced visa bans against violent Israeli settlers perpetrating violence against Palestinians.² The United States will hence refuse entry to anyone involved in "undermining peace, security or stability in the West Bank".

We welcome the EEAS statement from 31 October 2023 on settler terrorism and call upon you to introduce targeted sanctions, including visa bans and asset freezes, against violent individuals and entities involved in attacks against Palestinians.

Over 700,000 settlers are living illegally in the occupied West Bank. 2023 will set the record for Israeli settlements construction and legalisation.³ It remains the EU's firm position that settlements are illegal under international law.

The EU needs to do all in its power to contribute to de-escalation in the current conflict and hold violent perpetrators to account.

With best regards,

¹ <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-60>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/05/us-travel-ban-israel-extremist-palestinian-attacks>

³ https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/peace-now-israel-approved-more-settlement-development-in-2023-than-any-previous-year/



Signing Members of the European Parliament:

Jordi Solé (Greens/EFA)
Evin Incir (S&D)
Hilde Vautmans (Renew)
Idoia Villanueva (The Left)
Bernard Guetta (Renew)
Ana Miranda (Greens/EFA)
Diana Riba i Giner (Greens/EFA)
Grace O'Sullivan (Greens/EFA)
Tineke Strik (Greens/EFA)
Alviina Alametsä (Greens/EFA)
Rosa d'Amato (Greens/EFA)
Claude Gruffat (Greens/EFA)
Lydie Massard (Greens/EFA)
Heidi Hautala (Greens/EFA)
Mounir Satouri (Greens/EFA)
Margrete Auken (Greens/EFA)
Kira Marie Peter-Hansen (Greens/EFA)
Ciarán Cuffe (Greens/EFA)
Saskia Bricmont (Greens/EFA)
Piernicola Pedicini (Greens/EFA)
Malin BJÖRK (The Left)
Manu Pineda (The Left)
Younous Omarjee (The Left)
María Eugenia Rodríguez Palop (The Left)
Miguel Urban (The Left)