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Diplomatic initiatives to operate the Rafah Border in accordance with international law.

To ensure the population of Gaza a safe and predictable access to food, medicine and water, the land border to Gaza must be opened. The Rafah border crossing is one of six checkpoints between Gaza and the outside world and the only checkpoint not bordering Israel.

The current situation is completely untenable. People in Gaza are dying due to lack of electricity, fuel, medicine, food, clean water, and with 70 percent of the population suffering from hunger.

The border crossing at Rafah should normally function without control by Israeli occupying forces. On November 15, 2005, an agreement regarding the Rafah border was signed between Palestinian authorities, Israeli authorities, and Egyptian authorities, with the EU as an observer/third party.

The EU agreed with Israel to monitor the work of PA. Unfortunately the EU has stopped its role because of Israel interference and Veto on Rafah border to allow or deny access for persons and Goods.

The border crossing at Rafah is vital for Gaza, but it has never functioned satisfactorily, with Egypt puts extra pressure on Palestinians.

Without a normal and efficient functioning of the Rafah border, there will be a crisis in Gaza both for the import of goods and the freedom of movement for individuals. Neither port calls nor air drops can replace the need for an effective, land-based border crossing.

We seek assistance from Norway to negotiate a solution which granted the EU its monitoring role to operate directly from Egypt to Gaza without need to Israel agreement with the EU as qualified and trusted partner for all.

The goal is to enable the Egyptian authorities to grant permission to humanitarian aid without the consent of Israel. Control can be handed over to international observers. EU countries such as Spain, Belgium, Ireland, Slovenia and others might support such an initiative, both politically and operationally.

Israel is using hunger as a weapon. Never before has such a high number of people in an area been threatened by starvation. We urge Norway to take the initiative to ensure a functioning border crossing at Rafah.



International coalition to open Rafah border.
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