



## NEWS STORIES

# Gaza: EU calls for restraint on both sides following deaths of dozens of Palestinian protesters



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Dozens of Palestinians, including children, have been killed and hundreds injured from Israeli fire today, during ongoing mass protests near the Gaza fence against the transfer of the US embassy to Jerusalem today.

*"We expect all to act with utmost restraint to avoid further loss of life. Israel must respect the right to peaceful protest and the principle of proportionality in the use of force. Hamas and those leading the demonstrations in Gaza must ensure that they remain strictly non-violent and must not exploit them for other means,"* said High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini in a statement published today.

She warns that any further escalation of an already extremely tense and complex situation would cause again further unspeakable sufferings to both peoples, and will make the perspective of peace and security even more remote. *"In this moment, wisdom and courage would be needed to go back to negotiations for a political solution, for the sake of both the Israeli and the Palestinian people, and the entire region"* said Mogherini, stressing that *"only a two state solution will realistically allow both sides to fulfil their aspirations, put an end to the conflict, and achieve the just and lasting peace that Israelis and Palestinians long for and deserve."*

Jerusalem is a holy city for Jews, Muslims and Christians. The ties of the Jewish people to Jerusalem are irrefutable, and must not be denied. And the same is true for the ties of the Palestinian people to the city added the statement.

The European Union has a clear, consolidated position on Jerusalem, which was reaffirmed in numerous Foreign Affairs Council conclusions: the EU will continue to respect the international consensus on Jerusalem embodied in, inter alia, UN Security Council Resolution 478, including on the location of diplomatic representations until the final status of Jerusalem is resolved concluded the statement.

The EU remains firmly committed to continue working with both parties and with its partners in the international community towards a resumption of meaningful negotiations aimed at a two-state solution, based on the 4 June 1967 lines and with Jerusalem as capital of both.

[Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on violence in Gaza and latest developments](#)

Photo: Ramez Habboub / CrowdSpark

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