

Slovenia First EU Country to Ban Arms Trade With Israel

LJUBLJANA (Dispatches) — Slovenia has officially become the first European Union member state to ban the import, export, and transit of weapons and military equipment to and from Israel, in what is viewed as a significant move in line with the ongoing global boycott of the illegal entity.

The decision on Thursday marks a notable shift in Slovenia's foreign policy and highlights the growing support for Palestinian rights within Europe and the European Union.

The Slovenian government underscored that the ban was prompted by the dire humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza, coupled with the European Union's perceived inaction regarding Israel's war in Gaza.

Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob emphasized that this move showcases Slovenia's unwavering commitment to upholding international law and human rights.

"Responsible states must act, even if it means stepping ahead of others," he remarked, signaling Slovenia's willingness to take a stand for what it deems morally and legally right.



Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob

The Slovenian government said the decision was prompted by the European Union's inability to adopt concrete measures on Israel.

"Due to internal disagreements and disunity, the European Union is currently unable to fulfill this task," the statement said.

The Slovenian government condemned the denial of humanitarian access, saying, "The result of this is shameful: people in Gaza are dying because humanitarian aid is systematically denied to them. They are dying under the rubble, without access to drinking water, food, and basic healthcare."

"This is a complete denial of hu-

manitarian access and a conscious prevention of basic conditions for survival. In such circumstances, it is the duty of every responsible state to act, even if this means taking a step ahead of others."

It said the government will prepare some more national measures against the current Israeli government, "whose actions constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law," in the coming weeks.

Slovenia's decision builds on its previous recognition of Palestinian statehood in 2024 and follows a recent ban on the entry of two far-right Israeli ministers who have

been accused of inciting violence against Palestinians.

This illustrates Slovenia's increasingly proactive approach towards addressing issues related to human rights and international law in the conflict.

The ban aligns Slovenia with a growing chorus of voices calling for accountability for Israel, as several countries—including Ireland, Norway, and Spain—are also taking measures to diplomatically isolate the Israeli government.

This trend marks a significant shift in European attitudes toward the ongoing genocide of the people of Gaza and reflects an increasing concern for the humanitarian implications of military actions.

Furthermore, Slovenia has indicated that it plans to introduce additional national measures targeting Israel in the weeks to come, signaling a potential shift that could inspire other EU nations to follow suit.

As Slovenia takes this historic step, it sets a precedent for a tougher stance on the genocide within the European Union, potentially reshaping the region's diplomatic landscape.

Hamas Official: U.S. Envoy's Visit to Gaza 'Publicity Stunt'

GAZA (Dispatched) — A senior official of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has censured the visit of U.S. Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff to Gaza as a "publicity stunt" aimed at containing growing anger over U.S.-Israeli involvement in the ongoing starvation of people in the besieged territory.

In a statement on Thursday, Izat al-Rishq, a member of Hamas's political bureau, said, "Witkoff only sees in Gaza what the Israeli occupation wants him to see. He views the ongoing tragedy through a distorted Israeli lens."

He stressed that the US envoy "will not witness the workings of the hunger guillotine known as the 'Gaza Humanitarian Foundation', nor how it prepares the killing ground for the Zionist war machine."

Al-Rishq added that the White House's recent recognition of famine in Gaza — after months of denial — without holding Israel accountable, "amounts to absolving the perpetrator and offering political cover for what is the worst

crime in modern history."

His remarks come as suffering in the besieged enclave worsens, with warnings that hunger has reached extreme levels and reports of rising deaths due to starvation.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), founded in February 2025 amidst the prolonged Israeli assault on Gaza that started in October 2023, is a US-funded initiative working in collaboration with the Israeli military. It has been portrayed as a mechanism to provide humanitarian aid despite the persistent blockade.

Nearly 170 non-governmental organizations have called for the immediate discontinuation of the controversial GHF program, and called for a return to the UN-led aid mechanism that existed in the war-torn territory until March, when the Israeli regime imposed a full blockade on humanitarian assistance entering Gaza.

The UN World Food Program (WFP) has raised the alarm that a quarter of Gaza's 2.3 million population faces famine-like conditions.

Zionist Ministers Say Time Ripe to Annex Occupied West Bank

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Two Israeli ministers have openly pushed for the full annexation of the occupied West Bank, signaling a dangerous escalation as they claim the groundwork for the illegal move is already in place.

Yariv Levin and Israel Katz, so-called ministers for justice and military affairs, called for the deployment of the regime's military across the occupied Palestinian territory to claim the biblical cities of "Judea and Samaria" — the term that the occupying Zionist entity uses when referring to the West Bank.

"Ministers Katz and Levin have been working for many years to implement Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria," their offices said in a joint statement on Thursday.

The ministers asserted that the groundwork for the annexation of the West Bank commenced during President Donald Trump's first term (2017–2021), when his administration supported a proposal for Israel to assume control over most of the territory.

"This was expressed, among other things, in the work done by minister Levin during President Trump's first term, in which all the necessary things were prepared for the important move — from a proposal for resolutions to precise maps, and minister Katz led a series of unprecedented decisions to strengthen settlement and pave the way for Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria," the statement added.

The statement came less than 10 days after the Israeli Knesset voted for a motion on annexation of the occupied West Bank.

In June, the Israeli regime

unveiled a new plan for taking more land from the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

The plan, led by far-right minister Bezalel Smotrich, includes the legalization of settler outposts and the forced displacement of the Bedouin communities.

Under the shadow of the genocidal war in Gaza, Israel has accelerated its annexation drive in the West Bank. The occupied West Bank has been under Israeli military occupation since 1967.

The Israeli military has intensified daily raids and mass arrests, notably in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, where Israeli bulldozers have razed entire residential areas, expelling at least 40,000 people.

Approximately 770,000 illegal Israeli settlers live in the West Bank, across 180 settlements and 256 outposts — including 138 classified as agricultural or pastoral, according to Palestinian reports.

Israeli data show illegal settlers staged 414 attacks against the Palestinians in the West Bank in the first half of 2025, up 30% from 2024. At least 1,009 Palestinians have been killed and more than 7,000 injured in the West Bank by Israeli forces and settlers since October 2023.

In July 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) declared Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory illegal and called for the evacuation of all settlements in the West Bank and East al-Quds. All mere words.

Israel has already occupied vast pieces of Palestinian agricultural land to construct and expand new settler units in various areas of the West Bank.

Trump Warns Canada of Trade Retaliation Over Palestine Recognition

WASHINGTON (Press TV) — U.S. President Donald Trump has indicated that Canada's recognition of Palestinian statehood is complicating efforts to secure a trade deal with the country, using the decision as leverage in ongoing negotiations with its northern neighbor.

He made the announcement on Thursday through social media, revealing his desire to use the trade war to coerce countries on issues outside the context of trade -- essentially to flatter his Zionist partners.

"Wow! Canada has just announced that it is backing statehood for Palestine," Trump wrote, adding it "will make it very hard for us to make a Trade Deal with them. Oh? Canada!!!"

The U.S. president has threatened to impose a 35% tariff on Canada if no deal is reached by Friday, adding that he will levy tariffs against goods from dozens of countries if they don't reach an agreement with the U.S.

He also dismissed a similar policy announced by French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday, saying, "What he says doesn't matter. It's not going to change anything."

In contrast, Trump expressed support for the UK's similar stance, stating he had no issue with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's position that the United Kingdom would recognize a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agreed to a ceasefire in Gaza.

Trump has maintained an ambiguous position with regard to the recognition of Palestinian statehood amid a broader global shift against Israel's policies in Gaza, saying such a move would be rewarding Hamas.

The U.S. president has harassed Canada since he came to power in January, suggesting it should become the 51st U.S. state.

The White House announced on Wednesday that "Donald Trump has officially imposed a new 40% tariff in addition to the 10% tariff previously applied against Brazil in an attempt to address the recent policies, practices, and actions of the Brazilian government, which pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, for-

eign policy, and economy of the United States."

Trump has been threatening the ruling establishment in Brazil in an effort to save his ally Jair Bolsonaro, who, like the U.S. president, has faced criminal charges for attempting to overturn the results of his election loss.

Some imports from Canada are still protected by the 2020 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which is up for renegotiation next year.

Early this year, former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had said that U.S. President Donald Trump is serious about annexing Canada, warning that the American president's fixation on absorbing Canada is "a real thing."

200 German Celebrities, Journos Urge Tougher Stance on Israel

BERLIN (Anadolu) — More than 200 prominent German celebrities and journalists on Thursday urged Chancellor Friedrich Merz to stop arms deliveries to Israel and to impose further sanctions on Tel Aviv over its deadly military campaign in Gaza.

In an open letter, the group pointed to the suffering of children in the Gaza Strip and stressed, "We, too, condemn the horrific crimes of Hamas in the strongest possible terms. But no crime legitimizes the collective punishment of millions of innocent people in the most brutal way."

The letter added that in the Gaza Strip, children who are not part of the war yet bear its burden by starving and dying.

"More than 17,000 have already been killed.

Hundreds of thousands are injured, traumatized, displaced, and starving."

The signatories — including actors Liv Lisa Fries (Babylon Berlin), Katharina Thalbach (Miss Merkel), and Benno Furrmann (North Face) — acknowledged Merz's criticism of the Israeli government in recent days. However, they urged the chancellor to take further steps, including halting all German arms exports to Israel, supporting the suspension of the EU Association Agreement with Israel, and demanding an immediate ceasefire and unhindered access for humanitarian aid.

"These steps are deeply aligned with European values and would make it unmistakably clear to the Israeli government that even its

closest allies can no longer tolerate the suffering and that words are no longer enough," the open letter said.

On Monday, Merz said his government is considering stepping up pressure on Israel over the dire humanitarian situation in the enclave.

The German government "reserves the right" to take concrete measures to increase pressure on Israel to improve "the catastrophic situation" in the Gaza Strip, he said.

He added that the Security Cabinet had not yet made any decisions on the matter but had discussed options.

"We reserve the right, however, to take such steps," he stressed.