

Member of the European Parliament

Strasbourg, 14 December 2023

Dear High Representative Borrell,

It is now sadly over 10 weeks since the Hamas inhumane massacre in Israel and the abduction of civilian hostages, including babies, infants, women, elderly and medically unfit people.

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, urge your attention on the role of Qatar and their explicit support of Hamas. Both in providing financial assistance of billions of euros over the years but also in harbouring the leadership of Hamas, who live in luxury in Doha with 24-hour security provided by Qatar.

Despite its recent mediation efforts, Qatar could simply pressure Hamas more today to release the remaining hostages and be part of the solution, instead of part of the inhumane problem of terrorism.

As High Representative for the Union on Foreign Affairs, the Qatari government must be reminded that their support for Hamas and terrorism, will affect its future relations with the European Union. We must make clear to Qatar and every other entity in the region that human rights come first, before any business dealings.

Both the Statement of the Members of the European Council of 15 October 2023¹ and the European Parliament Resolution P9_TA(2023)0373, adopted on 19 October 2023², call for Hamas to “immediately release all hostages” and note “that the taking of hostages is a violation of international law and constitutes a war crime.”

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/10/15/statement-agreed-by-the-27-members-of-the-european-council-on-the-situation-in-the-middle-east/>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0373_EN.html

Furthermore, the rhetoric and actions of Qatar contribute towards the incitement and violence that Jewish people are experiencing here in Europe. Following the terror attack of 7 October, antisemitic attacks and hate speech have multiplied by over 1000%. Jewish communities live under fear and are being assaulted, in many instances, by supporters of Hamas on the continent.

The scale and brutality of the attacks, which are some of the worse since the Holocaust, must be a turning point. We no longer can accept that it will be 'business as usual'.

We call upon you to ensure that Qatar and all key partners put the utmost pressure possible for the safe release of all the hostages as a priority.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your update regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely,

MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, ECR, The Netherlands

MEP Nicola Beer, RENEW, Germany

MEP Lukas Mandl, EPP, Austria

MEP Monika Hohlmeier, EPP, Germany

MEP Lars Patrick Berg, ECR, Germany

MEP Petras Auštrevičius, RENEW, Lithuania

MEP Anna Fotyga, ECR, Poland

MEP Rob Rooker, ECR, The Netherlands

MEP Niclas Herbst, EPP, Germany

MEP Dietmar Köster, S&D, Germany

MEP Stefan Berger, EPP, Germany

MEP Hermann Tertsch, ECR, Spain

MEP Robert Roos, ECR, The Netherlands

MEP Carmen Avram, S&D, Romania

MEP Andrey Kovatchev, EPP, Bulgaria

MEP Charlie Weimers, ECR, Sweden

MEP Dorien Rookmaker, ECR, The Netherlands

MEP Tomáš Zdechovský, EPP, Czech Republic

MEP René Repasi, S&D, Germany