

Moncloa, Madrid (España)

INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

Good morning, and thank you to the media for covering this institutional statement.

As we all know, the Jewish people have suffered countless persecutions and injustices throughout history, including the most atrocious of all, which was the Holocaust. After so much suffering, they deserve to have their own state and deserve to feel safe in it.

Therefore, the Government of Spain and Spanish society as a whole have condemned Hamas's terrorist attacks and kidnappings from day one and will always support Israel's right to exist, to guarantee its security, and to prosper.

But, with the same conviction, the Spanish government believes that protecting your country and protecting your society is one thing, but bombing hospitals and starving innocent children is quite another.

What Prime Minister Netanyahu presented in October 2023 as a military operation in response to the atrocious Hamas's terrorist attacks has turned into a new wave of illegal occupations, an unjustifiable attack against the Palestinian civilian population. An attack that the United Nations Special Rapporteur and most experts now describe as genocide.

The figures speak for themselves: 63,000 dead, 159,000 wounded, 250,000 people at risk of acute malnutrition, and nearly 2 million people displaced from their homes. Half of them are minors.

This is not self-defense, it's not even attacking. It's exterminating a defenseless people. It's violating all the laws of humanitarian law. And despite this, the international community is failing to stop this tragedy.

Perhaps because the world's great powers have ended up stuck between indifference to a conflict that never ends and complicity with Prime Minister Netanyahu's government.

Spain, as you know, doesn't have nuclear bombs, aircraft carriers, or large oil reserves. We alone can't stop the Israeli offensive. But that doesn't mean we will stop trying. Because there are causes worth fighting for, even if winning them is not solely in our hands.

In the last two years, Spain has taken many courageous steps in this regard.

We have promoted several resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly to demand a permanent ceasefire.

We have supported the cases of the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

We have sent humanitarian aid to Gaza whenever possible, as Prime Minister Netanyahu has allowed, along with the entire international community committed to providing humanitarian aid.

We have closed the sale of military equipment to Israel and increased our financial support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Furthermore, Spain has promoted several key political processes, such as the international recognition of the State of Palestine and the creation of a global alliance to implement the two-state solution, which is the only possible solution.

All these efforts have served to combat indifference, to alleviate, even if slightly, the suffering of the Palestinian people and give them a glimmer of hope. And yet, as I said before, they have failed to stop the massacre.

That's why the Spanish government has decided to go a step further and immediately launch nine additional actions to stop the genocide in Gaza, prosecute its perpetrators, and support the Palestinian population. Nine measures I would like to share with all of you.

The first is the urgent approval of a Royal Decree-Law that legally consolidates the arms embargo on Israel, which we have been applying de

facto since October 2023, and that establishes a legal and permanent prohibition on the purchase and sale of weapons, ammunition, and military equipment to Israel.

Secondly, along with this embargo, the ban on all ships carrying fuel destined for the Israeli Armed Forces from transiting through Spanish ports.

The third is the denial of entry into Spanish airspace to all state aircraft carrying defense material destined for Israel.

The fourth is the prohibition of entry into Spanish territory for all persons directly involved in genocide, human rights violations, and war crimes in the Gaza Strip.

The fifth is a ban on the import of products from illegal settlements in Gaza and the West Bank, with the aim of combating these occupations, halting the forced displacement of the Palestinian population, and keeping the two-state solution alive.

The sixth, with the same objective, will limit consular services provided to Spanish citizens residing in illegal Israeli settlements to the minimum legally required assistance.

Seventh, strengthening our support for the Palestinian Authority by increasing our personnel in the European Union border assistance mission in Rafah and establishing new cooperation projects with the Palestinian Authority in the areas of agriculture, food security, and medical assistance.

The eighth will be the increase of our contribution, the Spanish contribution, to UNRWA, the United Nations agency responsible for assisting the people of Gaza, by an additional 10 million euros.

And the ninth is the increase in humanitarian aid and cooperation for Gaza to reach 150 million euros next year, in 2026.

These nine measures, as a whole, will be implemented immediately, adding to the many already adopted by the Spanish Government over the past two years.

We know that all these measures will not be enough to stop the invasion or the war crimes, but we hope they will serve to add pressure on Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government, to alleviate some of the suffering the Palestinian population is going through, and also to ensure that Spanish society as a whole knows and feels that, in the face of one of the most infamous episodes of the 21st century, their country, Spain, was on the right side of history.

Thank you so much.

(Transcription edited by the State Secretariat for Communication)