

## EU 'Pauses' Its Toothless Sanctions On Israel

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**Dimitri Lascaris (DL):** Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you for a Reason2Resist on October 21st, 2025 from Amman, Jordan. It's hard to believe that the EU political elite could disgrace itself even more than it already has, but somehow, folks, it has found a way to do so. Today, EU foreign policy honcho Kaja Kallas announced that in light of the so-called peace deal in Gaza, the EU would pause, that's the word she used, its efforts to suspend preferential trade with Israel and sanctions against people responsible for fueling the conflict. Again, those are her words. To grasp just how depraved this decision is, we need to examine recent developments in the Gaza Strip.

Today, the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza provided an update on the overall death toll in the devastated Gaza Strip. And here you see a summary of its report on the Resistance News Network Telegram channel. It announced that 13 martyrs, including seven due to direct targeting by the occupation, and six recovered from the rubble, and eight injuries have arrived at Gaza Strip hospitals in the prior 24 hours. A number of the victims, it said, were still under the rubble and on the roads as ambulance and civil defence crews were unable to reach them until now. The toll of the Israeli aggression from October 7, 2023 to the current time, this is the number of persons dead and wounded, it has been able to count, is now up to 68,229 martyrs and 170,369. Together, that is well in excess of 10% of the pre-October 7th population of the Gaza Strip. And of course, because of the destruction of Gaza and in particular its hospital systems and its morgues, and the extreme dangers of people, emergency workers going out trying to retrieve bodies, whether they're under the rubble or in the streets of Gaza or elsewhere in the strip, this only represents a small proportion, undoubtedly, of the true death count and casualty count in Gaza since October 7, 2023. And then, of course, there are the indirect deaths, which, as the Lancet has explained many months ago, are likely to be well in excess of those who have been killed and wounded directly.

Now, since the ceasefire on October 11th, 2025, the totals are, according to the ministry, 87 martyrs, 311 injuries, and 432 retrieved bodies. 15 unidentified bodies held by the occupation

were received within the past 24 hours, raising the total number of bodies received from the occupation to 165. And I'm gonna have more rather disturbing news about those bodies in a few moments' time. Now, that of course is just the overall picture. It's not simply the total casualties that are utterly appalling. It's also the manner in which Israel has been killing people since the ceasefire went into effect. For example, Israel a few days ago destroyed a bus that was carrying eleven persons, civilians, all from the same family, and some of them, of course, were women and children. Here you can see a BBC report. Notice the headline of this article. This is typical for the disgusting BBC. It refers to the civil defence in Gaza as being Hamas run, as though Hamas fighters are somehow running the organisation. You know, these are emergency workers. The fact that Hamas is the government doesn't mean that we should discount or disbelieve what they're telling us about what they're seeing and experiencing with their own eyes. And obviously, this formulation, "Hamas run", which you see in many other Western corporate media outlets and have been seeing for years, is designed to cast serious doubt upon what we are hearing from the Gaza Strip, which of course cannot be corroborated by the international media because Israel won't allow the international media into the Gaza Strip.

Now, according to the BBC, Israel justified the massacre on the basis that a bus carrying eleven unarmed civilians posed a threat to Israel's heavily armed soldiers, soldiers who are protected by flak jackets, helmets, tanks, drones, exploding robots, F-35s, you name it. And here's more from the article discussing what exactly the genocidal military offered as a pretext for the murder of these eleven civilians, all from the same family. So the BBC reports that according to the Genocidal Military of Israel, a quote, suspicious vehicle was identified crossing the yellow line and approaching troops operating in northern Gaza Strip on Friday, prompting it to fire warning shots towards the vehicle. It said the vehicle continued to approach the troops in a way that caused an imminent threat to them. What does that mean? Was it accelerating towards the troops? Are we to believe that it actually engaged in some kind of unusual activity that caused these heavily armed baby killers to feel threatened? And the IDF, it says, the BBC, has warned Palestinians from entering areas in Gaza still under its control. Let's recall, I've said this many times, it bears repeating, that the occupation of the Gaza Strip, whatever the ceasefire agreement says, is illegal. So held the International Court of Justice last year when it said Israel was obliged to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and end its occupation of the Gaza Strip as quickly as humanly possible. Israel, of course, has shown the ICJ yet again the middle finger of the state. Now, "with limited internet access, the BBC says, many Palestinians do not know the position of Israeli troops, as the yellow demarcation line is not physically marked, and it's unclear if the area where the bus was travelling did cross it. The BBC has asked the Israeli military for coordinates of the incident." And there's no indication that I've seen that these mass murderers have provided the coordinates to the Israel-friendly BBC. But here's the kicker, according to the BBC, "Israeli Defence Minister", as they call him, "Israel Katz said on Friday, the army would set up visual signs to indicate the location of the line.", which is a clear, albeit implicit admission, that at the moment those eleven family members were murdered, there were no visual signs demarcating this entirely illegitimate yellow line.

Now, it gets worse, my friends. A major pretext for Israel's ongoing slaughter of Palestinians was the death of two Israeli terrorists in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, October 19th. And here you can see a report on YNET, an Israeli media outlet identifying the two dead terrorists as Yaniv Kula, a major and a company commander, age 26 in the Nahal Brigade's 932nd Battalion, and a staff sergeant and combat soldier by the name of Itay Yavetz, who was 21 years old from the brigade's Erez programme. Both were from the same community. And Israel, of course, immediately claimed that Hamas had killed them in brazen violation of the ceasefire. For its part, resistance groups in Gaza flatly denied killing these two Israeli terrorists. But frankly, given Israel's daily killing of civilians since the ceasefire agreement was signed, the resistance would have been perfectly justified in retaliating and attacking these baby killers.

Now, who's telling the truth about these Israeli casualties? Well, hours after these deaths broke, Ryan Grim of Drop Site News reported that according to a source familiar with the matter, the deaths of these terrorists were accidental. And here you can see a post that Ryan put out shortly after this news broke. And in it he says he was told by a source familiar with the matter that the White House and Pentagon knew that the incident was caused by an Israeli settler bulldozer running over unexploded ordnance, and of course that's all over Gaza, contradicting Netanyahu's claim that Hamas had popped up from tunnels. After Netanyahu said he was blocking all aid from entering Gaza in response and unleashed a bombing campaign, the administration conveyed to Israel that they know what happened. Netanyahu then announced he would reopen the crossings in a few hours. Then there was more news. Trump appeared before the media shortly after that to say that the two Israeli terrorists had been killed not by Hamas fighters but by rebels. And here you can see a report. This was in the Times of Israel, the headline being: *Trump says 'rebels' staged deadly attack on IDF troops in Gaza*. Note how the Times of Israel shows its scepticism by putting quotation marks around rebels, and then accuses the Donald, the most pro-Israel president of all time, of echoing a Hamas claim. In fact, I put it to you, my friends, what is more likely to be happening here when the Donald said that rebels did this is that the Donald did in fact know that this was an accident, that a bulldozer had run over unexploded ordnance and killed these two terrorists, but he didn't want to make Netanyahu look like the liar that he is. And so he came up with some muddled story about rebels, so that Netanyahu could say, well, this was just an honest mistake on my part, I just assumed they were Hamas.

At the end of the day, whether or not Trump is telling the truth, Netanyahu is telling the truth, the resistance is telling the truth, I repeat, in light of Israel's relentless violations of this ceasefire, the resistance would have been entirely justified in attacking these troops and this settler bulldozer. Now, Israel has violated the ceasefire not only by continuing to murder Palestinian civilians, but also by ignoring its extremely important commitments regarding humanitarian aid. And here you can see a report from the Resistance News Network. This comes from the resistance groups in Gaza. They say that the agreement signed on October 11th, I think it was, "requires the entry of sufficient humanitarian and food aid as per the January 19, 2025 understanding". That is the first ceasefire agreement concluded under the second Trump administration, which Israel predictably tore up in March when it began to

starve the civilian population of Gaza and refused as required to withdraw its troops from Rafah. And the report from the resistance goes on. It says that Israel "blocked essential items such as meat, eggs, poultry, and livestock." This is all during the period since the ceasefire came into effect. They say it "allowed only three gas trucks and 29 fuel trucks over nine days instead of the agreed 50 fuel trucks per day (only 7.1% of the required amount)." And this fuel is required for, amongst other things, running the hospitals, keeping the generators going to the extent that there's any functioning hospitals at all in the Gaza Strip. The resistance also says that Israel "closed the Zikim crossing, vital for aid from Jordan, and prevented entry of agricultural seeds, fodder, fertilisers, and solar panels.", so that the people of Gaza can begin to grow, at least to some degree, their own produce again, so that they're not entirely dependent upon external aid, which Israel systematically blocks.

So that too is an important context to this news we got from Kaja Kallas. But it gets even worse. Over the past seven days, doctors in Gaza have reported that more than 100 bodies of Palestinians who died while in Israel's torture camps show clear signs of having been tortured and executed. Many were returned to Gaza with blindfolds on their faces, their hands tied behind their backs, and gunshot wounds between the eyes. Many horrific images of these bodies have appeared on social media since the bodies were received by doctors in Gaza. I forced myself to look at a number of them to try to understand what the evidence is to back up these claims. That was a traumatic experience, let me tell you, and I'm sure others who saw them felt similarly. The evidence that Israel tortured and executed these individuals, none of whom have been proven to have been militants, and even if they were, this still would have constituted war crimes. The evidence of this was piling up so fast that even The Guardian felt obliged to write a report about it. And here you see one that came out within the past 24 hours. The Guardian's headline: *At least 135 mutilated bodies of Palestinians had been held at notorious Israeli gaols, say Gaza officials.* At least The Guardian didn't say the Hamas run Ministry of Health. And it goes on and says: "Documents indicate they came from the Sde Teiman camp, which already faces allegations of torture and unlawful deaths." The Guardian article corroborates what doctors in Gaza have said about these victims. The Guardian relied not only on the Gazan doctors who made these claims, it also viewed photos of the bodies, photos which it adjudged to be too gruesome to publish. And it spoke to survivors of these torture camps who recounted consistently experiences of these camps, which back up the findings, the medical findings, the physical evidence that these persons were tortured and executed. And notably The Guardian also spoke to two unnamed whistleblowers with direct knowledge of all of these atrocities.

Now, in addition to these diabolical crimes, Israel has also laid waste to its agreement to liberate Palestinian prisoners pursuant to prior agreements with the resistance. And here you see a report published within the last 24 hours by the Real News Network prisoners group. And they say that the "occupation forces abducted the liberated prisoner Jaber Abu Aliya during the IOF's invasion of the village of Al Mughayyir, northeast of Ramallah. Abu Aliya was released in the Toufan al-Ahrar two prisoner exchange deal earlier this year after he spent 22 years in occupation prisons." At this stage, one would be entitled to ask Is there any aspect of its agreements with the resistance during this genocide that Israel has respected? So

all of this, all of this is the gruesome and treacherous context in which Kaja Kallas announced that the EU would pause its pathetically weak sanctions on Israel and its most extreme ministers. And I want to show you another report in The Guardian that came out today about this announcement.

And I do want to say, although I have been hard on The Guardian and and I think quite rightly, as have many others about its reporting in relation to this genocide, I have noticed a distinct improvement at The Guardian over the last several months. It's by no means up to the standards that one would expect of a true journalistic enterprise, one that is committed to justice and informing its audience, but it does seem to have improved markedly. And if I had to guess, I would say that both external and internal pressure applied on the editors of The Guardian have caused them to give greater voice to the victims of Israel's genocide than they had been doing up until a few months ago. In any case, this article reports that according to Kaja Kallas, at a meeting of EU foreign ministers on Monday, the European foreign policy chief announced a pause on efforts to "suspend preferential trade with Israel and sanctions against people responsible for fueling the conflict on both sides." Now, just pause there. When they say fueling the conflict on both sides, that she's advertiring there to the fact that on September 16th, when they announced the suspension of preferential terms for trading with Israel and the EU, they also imposed sanctions on Hamas as if the EU had not already sanctioned the hell out of all of the armed resistance groups in the Gaza Strip. Obviously, that was done not because it was going to make a difference on the ground, but simply because the EU wanted to placate the Zionist lobby, the US government and its rabid Israeli attack dog. Now, Kallas says that the context had changed since the measures were proposed last month. I underlined the word proposed. I'll talk about that in a second. And then she said, "noting divergent views, that ministers had agreed, quote, 'we don't move with the measures now, but we don't take them off the table either because the situation is fragile.'"

What does she mean by, you know, we don't take them off the table? Israel doesn't give a damn about threats unless they are actually carried out and the measures taken cause real consequences, real pain to the genocidal entity or its leaders. Putting them on the table is absolutely ineffectual. Israel doesn't give a damn about, you know, some foreign policy honcho in the EU or some president or prime minister of some EU country saying that these sanctions remain on the table. And the other part of this statement that I find so offensive is this notion that the situation is fragile. You know, when they say fragile, Western politicians in relation to the ceasefire in Gaza, what they mean, that's code for Israel is crapping all over the ceasefire, and the resistance and the oppressed population are respecting it. That's what they mean by fragile. It only ceases to be fragile and becomes a broken ceasefire when the resistance or the oppressed population in some manner retaliate and impose a real cost on the genocidal entity for its relentless violations of its ceasefire agreements. And then finally, The Guardian says two people who work for the EU in senior roles speaking separately criticise the decision not to move forward with the sanctions. If those two people happen to be listening to me, I say to you that if you really had integrity, you would come out, you would say who you are, and you would resign. Because this is absolutely and utterly disgraceful.

So, in order to really understand the full extent here of the depravity of this announcement, I suggest that we compare the sanctions that were proposed and when they say proposed, I take that to mean that the sanctions actually never came into effect. If they did come into effect, they were in effect for no more than five weeks, because as I say, the decision to make them or to implement them happened around September 16th. But I suspect they actually never came into effect, or if they were formerly in effect, there was little to no enforcement of them, and this was all just more kabuki theatre. In any event, let's go now and let's take a look at what they proposed on September 16th and compare it to what the EU has done in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Let's note first of all that the proposed sanctions did not extend to all the ministers in Netanyahu's criminal cabinet, but only to those characterised by the EU as extremist. Perhaps Kaja Kallas could explain to us which of Netanyahu's ministers is not extremist. All indications are that every single member of Netanyahu's cabinet supported Israel's genocidal war on the people of Gaza and lustily so for the entire time that it's been going on. There are simply no moderates in Netanyahu's cabinet, and if Kaja Kallas thinks there are, it behoves her to tell us which of them are moderates. She's never identified a single moderate, a non-extremist in Netanyahu's cabinet, because there are none. So why didn't the EU sanction all of them? It has not even sanctioned Netanyahu and Gallant, despite the ICC indictments against them for crimes against humanity, including the crime of extermination.

In the case of Russia, the sanctions were all over the place. What did they not sanction? Whom did they not sanction in the Russian Federation? Few, if any, officials escaped the wrath of the EU after the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine in February of 2022. Within hours of Russia's invasion, the EU sanctioned 351 members of the Russian Duma, its parliament, who had voted in favour of Russia's recognition of the self-proclaimed people's republics of Luhansk and Donetsk. It did so even though the vast majority of the residents of those regions, according to available evidence, supported independence from Ukraine. Because that wasn't enough, the EU later added other members of the Russian Duma to its sanctions. By contrast, the EU has not sanctioned a single member of Israel's Knesset who isn't a minister in Netanyahu's cabinet. The vast majority, over 90%, over 95% of the members of the Knesset, have escaped sanction by the EU, even during this five-week period, despite the fact that the vast majority of them have been fully supportive of Israel's genocidal rampage against the Palestinian people. And many of them criticised the Netanyahu government for not being savage enough.

The EU also sanctioned Russian military staff and high-ranking Russian military officials. The EU has sanctioned no Israeli military staff and no high-ranking Israeli military officials. The EU sanctioned even Russian prosecutors and judges in connection with the death of Alexei Navalny. But it has sanctioned no Israeli prosecutors or judges, not even those who sought or who ordered the indefinite detention in Israel's torture camps of Palestinian children. You know, in conditions amounting to torture. This is administrative detention. There are some 300-400 children in Gaza during the course of this genocide who were held without charge, certainly without any conviction, and in appalling conditions, and yet not one, not one prosecutor, not one judge, either from Israel's domestic courts or from its

kangaroo war criminal military tribunals was sanctioned at any time by the European Union. The EU also sanctions Sergei Lavrov, whatever you may think of him, he is, I assure you, one of the most respected diplomats in the world. This is Russia's foreign minister, but it has not sanctioned the current Israeli foreign minister or his predecessor. As if to add insult to injury, Kaja Kallas just announced a 19th round of sanctions on the Russian Federation. Have a look at this, and as you do so, notice how Kaja Kallas seems incapable of masking the fact that she's reading from a teleprompter.

**Kaja Kallas (KK):** The primary source of income to finance this illegal war is still energy exports, which is why we propose a full prohibition of Russian LNG imports by January 2027 and expanding sanctions on Russia's shadow fleet, including 121 new vessels and its enablers. These new sanctions will also squeeze Russia's access to technologies including AI and geospatial data, as well as critical resources that feed weapons production.

**DL:** To sum it all up, my friends, the EU is ratcheting up its vast and unprecedented sanctions on Russia at the very moment that it is pausing its laughable sanctions on Israel. Sanctions, moreover, that appear never to have gone into effect. And it is doing so even though Israel continues to commit genocide with total impunity. It's for all these reasons that Kaja Kallas has richly earned the title of the Genocide Queen. This is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Amman, Jordan on October 21st, 2025.

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