

To:

President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen  
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy, Kaja Kallas

CC:

Permanent Representations of EU Member States

7 May 2026

**Re: Foreign Journalist Access to Gaza**

Dear President von der Leyen,  
Dear High Representative,

We, the undersigned members of the European Parliament, are writing to request that you take urgent steps to increase political pressure on Israel to grant independent access of foreign journalists to Gaza.

Despite a ceasefire being effective since 10 October 2025, Israel continues to refuse to facilitate independent media access to Gaza. Instead, Israel only permits highly infrequent media trips to Gaza with military escorts: [highly-controlled](#) and choreographed trips that last a few hours, following itineraries planned by the military for select international media who, while in Gaza, are unable to engage with Palestinians.

Independent access is an internationally-accepted principle of war reporting. This sets a damaging precedent if banning a free press from conflict becomes an uncontested practice. Our right to access information is being restricted.

Around two thirds of EU member states have already publicly called for foreign journalist access in a joint [statement](#) by the Media Freedom Coalition on 21 August 2025.

In March, the Israeli Supreme Court heard a second petition by the Foreign Press Association seeking free and independent access for journalists to the Gaza Strip, after the government told the Court that such a ban [should](#) remain because of security risks. After repeated delays, the court agreed to a request by the Israeli government to delay the case until 24 May.

The Israeli government has provided no evidence or further explanation of these purported security risks, or how this differs from other conflict zones.

Security can no longer be invoked by Israel as justification to deny access. We call on you to specifically make access for foreign journalists a key demand in your bilateral relations with Israel and to use all possible diplomatic and political means to ensure it is granted.

## Undersigned:

1. Thijs Reuten (S&D)
2. Michael Gahler (EPP)
3. David Casa (EPP)
4. Aura Salla (EPP)
5. Mika Aaltola (EPP)
6. Pekka Toveri (EPP)
7. Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP)
8. Marta Temido (S&D)
9. Mounir Satouri (Greens/EFA)
10. Bruno Gonçalves (S&D)
11. Matjaž Nemeč (S&D)
12. Marc Angel (S&D)
13. Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew)
14. Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Greens/EFA)
15. Carla Tavares (S&D)
16. Elio Di Rupo (S&D)
17. Daniel Attard (S&D)
18. Francisco Assis (S&D)
19. Ana Miranda Paz (Greens/EFA)
20. Evin Incir (S&D)
21. Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)
22. André Franqueira Rodrigues (S&D)
23. Diana Riba i Giner (Greens/EFA)
24. Tineke Strik (Greens/EFA)
25. Brando Benifei (S&D)
26. Robert Biedroń (S&D)
27. Udo Bullmann (S&D)
28. Cecilia Strada (S&D)
29. Annalisa Corrado (S&D)
30. Hana Jalloul Muro (S&D)
31. Giorgio Gori (S&D)
32. Sérgio Gonçalves (S&D)
33. César Luena (S&D)
34. Saskia Bricmont (Greens/EFA)
35. Cristina Guarda (Greens/EFA)
36. Mélissa Camara (Greens/EFA)
37. Catarina Vieira (Greens/EFA)
38. Jaume Asens (Greens/EFA)
39. Barry Andrews (Renew)
40. Sara Matthieu (Greens/EFA)
41. Villy Søvndal (Greens/EFA)
42. Kira Marie Peter-Hansen (Greens/EFA)

43. Rasmus Nordqvist (Greens/EFA)
44. David Cormand (Greens/EFA)
45. Lynn Boylan (The Left)
46. Hanna Gedin (The Left)
47. Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left)
48. Benedetta Scuderi (Greens/EFA)
49. Billy Kelleher (Renew)
50. Cynthia Ní Mhurchú (Renew)
51. Chloé Ridel (S&D)
52. Estelle Ceulemans (S&D)
53. Irena Joveva (Renew)
54. Pierre Juvet (S&D)
55. Sandro Ruotolo (S&D)
56. Manon Aubry (The Left)
57. Oihane Agirregoitia Martínez (Renew)
58. Yvan Verougstraete (Renew)
59. Rima Hassan (The Left)
60. Leila Chaibi (The Left)
61. Emma Fourreau (The Left)