

Urgent Appeal to the European Union: Hunger in Gaza Results from Deliberate Actions

26 August (RIDHE).- The **declaration of famine in Gaza** issued by the United Nations Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) confirms what international organizations have long warned: **the deliberate deprivation of food by Israel constitutes a war crime**. This crisis, now referred to as the “**world’s famine**,” exposes the inaction of the international community and poses an urgent ethical and political challenge **regarding global responsibility for the lives of hundreds of thousands of people**.

According to this new UN food security assessment, **more than half a million people in Gaza are trapped in famine conditions** marked by widespread starvation, destitution, and preventable deaths.

Child malnutrition is escalating at a catastrophic rate. UN agencies report that in July alone, **more than 12,000 children** were identified with acute malnutrition — the highest monthly figure ever recorded and a six-fold increase since the beginning of the year.

The consequences are devastating in the context of **Israel’s intensified military offensive**, which prevents the evacuation of thousands of civilians — particularly children, the elderly, the sick, and persons with disabilities.

The **International Network for Human Rights (RIDHE)** urgently calls on the **European Union (EU)** to **assume its responsibility and ensure an immediate, large-scale humanitarian response**. RIDHE also joins the appeal of UN Secretary-General António Guterres for an **immediate ceasefire** to **enable unhindered humanitarian relief**, as well as the prompt release of all hostages.

The IPC declaration — endorsed by UN agencies, governments, and dozens of NGOs — **demonstrates that Israel, as the occupying power, continues to violate its obligation under international law to ensure access to food and medicine for the civilian population**.

Conditions in northern Gaza are as dire, if not worse, than those in Gaza City. However, the lack of available data prevented a more detailed classification, **underscoring the urgent need for unrestricted access on the ground**.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned that the famine in Gaza could have been averted had humanitarian personnel and essential

supplies been allowed entry. Despite food being stockpiled just across the borders, **Palestinians face extreme shortages due to Israel's systematic obstruction.**

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Volker Türk**, stressed that **famine in Gaza is a direct consequence of Israeli government policies** and constitutes a **war crime**.

RIDHE reiterates its urgent call:

The **European Union** must demand **Israel's immediate compliance with the orders of the International Court of Justice**, guaranteeing humanitarian assistance, the opening of crossings, and the protection of the most vulnerable, particularly children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

The **EU** must **suspend all arms transfers and military licenses** as long as there remains a clear risk of serious violations of international humanitarian law, prioritizing civilian lives over commercial or strategic interests.

The **EU** must fully support **international justice**, cooperating with the **International Criminal Court** and activating universal jurisdiction to ensure that no perpetrator of crimes against humanity enjoys impunity.