

We, the President of the Government of Spain and the Prime Minister of Norway, met in Oslo, Norway, on Friday 12 April to discuss the current situation in the Middle East, including the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

We discussed the heinous terrorist attack on 7 October carried out by Hamas and expressed our deepest sympathies with the people and State of Israel. We agreed on the urgency of ensuring the unconditional release of all remaining hostages, and in condemning the use of sexual and gender-based violence during and in the aftermath of the Hamas-led terror attacks.

We discussed the appalling situation in Gaza, and Israel's indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force and other measures. In line with international humanitarian law, all parties have a clear duty to protect civilians.

We agreed on the urgent need for an immediate ceasefire and a drastic and sustained increase of humanitarian aid into, and within, Gaza, where famine is imminent. We emphasised Israel's responsibility when it comes to humanitarian access and agreed that Israel must do much more to allow for this to happen.

We underscored that all humanitarian actors must be allowed to continue their indispensable humanitarian efforts in Gaza, and the region, without fearing for their own lives. We agreed that all attacks on civilians, including humanitarian personnel and the recent attack on the World Central Kitchen aid convoy, are unacceptable.

We discussed the many challenges facing the Palestinian Authority and agreed to support the new Government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, and its reform agenda, and stressed the need for the unification of the West Bank and Gaza under one legitimate authority. We agreed that Israel needs to make fundamental changes to its policies in order for the Palestinian Authority to be able to function and deliver to its people.

We agreed that the implementation of the two-state solution, where Israelis and Palestinians are living side-by-side in peace and security, is vital for peace and stability in the region. We further agreed that Palestinian statehood is a condition for the realisation of the two-state solution, in line with the UN partition plan of 1947. We discussed our readiness to recognise Palestine as a state and support its full membership in the United Nations and emphasised that we will do so when it can make a genuine and positive contribution to a political process toward peace between Israel and Palestine. We also discussed how we and others should coordinate with ongoing initiatives going forward, including the Arab Peace Plan. This political approach will be key for mutual recognition and peace in the region.

We highlighted the vital role of UNRWA, both in Gaza and the broader region. We welcomed announcements by countries to resume support to the organisation, and agreed that all countries who have suspended their contributions should reconsider their decisions and adhere to their commitments.

Finally, we discussed the unacceptable and unlawful attacks on civilian ships in the Red Sea, as well as our mutual concern for the increasing unrest in the broader Middle East Region. We further agreed that all actors must show restraint and contribute to de-escalation.

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Pedro Sánchez, President of the Government of Spain
Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of Norway