

## EU gives go-ahead for Gaza force

Written by Chris Perver

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Well friends, this is what we have been predicting for a few months, and finally it seems the EU is going to [send troops to Gaza](#). The European Parliament has voted on a proposal to send an international force to the region in order to stem the Palestinian terrorist attacks and prevent the need for Israel to strike back. Earlier in the week, Javier Solana, the High Representative for the European Common, Foreign and Security Policy, had stated it was [high time](#) to break the cycle of violence in the Middle East...

**Quote:** *"The European Parliament passed on Thursday a proposal to send a multi-national force to Gaza designed to pressure Israel to stop all its military operations in the region. The vote, which was passed by a vast majority, called for a force similar to the one stationed in southern Lebanon. European representatives also condemned Israel's disproportionate use of force and the economic siege laid on Gaza."*

The Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero has confirmed that the European Union is [soon to launch an initiative](#) in the Middle East to end the cycle of violence. During a trip to Turkey as part of his role in the Alliance of Civilizations, Zapatero commented that the events in Gaza had "region-wide repercussions", and that the international community could "no longer remain indifferent" on the issue.

**Quote:** *"The European Union has reacted to the Israeli massacre in Beit Hanoun Gaza where 19 Palestinians, including women and children, were killed. Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero announced that the EU would soon launch an initiative to tackle the problem. Zapatero, who arrived in Istanbul as part of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, met with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan at his office in Besiktas, Istanbul. Zapatero drew attention to the Israeli massacre and said that they were working on a plan within the EU to prevent more tragic events in the region"*

French President Jacques Chirac has also confirmed that the EU is soon to launch a [new Middle East peace initiative](#)

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**Quote:** *"Meanwhile, French President Jacques Chirac announced Thursday that his country, in cooperation with Spain and Italy, are drafting a new diplomatic initiative for the Middle East. Chirac said that he held a conference call Thursday with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, in order to reach*

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*an agreement on an initiative aimed at finding a solution for the Palestinian problem. The new plan includes five elements: An immediate ceasefire, the formation of a Palestinian unity government that would be able to receive international recognition, prisoner exchange between Israel and the PA (including the three kidnapped Israeli soldiers), talks between the Israeli prime minister and his Palestinian counterpart, and an international force that will deploy in Gaza and reinforce the ceasefire.*

Friends, I can hardly believe this is happening. After the Lebanon war and the biggest EU force in the history of the Union was mobilized to intervene in Lebanon, it became clear that the international community's patience with the Middle East conflict was wearing thin. When I said that [Gaza](#) would follow, European Ministers were already calling for the EU to intervene in the region. And after the Beit Hanoun tragedy I suspected that [EU](#) [patience](#) had just run out. Now the EU has voted to send a force to Gaza, creating the [environment](#) in which a covenant of peace could be signed. The only question that's left to answer is when it will be signed. If the Palestinian Authority can get a new government up and running as promised within [three weeks](#), world leaders honour their promises to tour the Middle East at the [end of this month](#) as scheduled, and the EU sends its peace keeping force to Gaza, we still could be seeing a peace covenant on the table by the end of the year. Whatever happens, we will know.

If Jesus Christ should return to take the Christians home to heaven before the end of the year, [will you be going with Him](#) ?

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Source [YNet News](#) , [Zaman](#) , [YNet News](#)