

UN Human Rights Council
President Suryodipuro
Geneva, Switzerland

Strasbourg, 13 February 2026

Subject: call for resignation of Ms. Francesca Albanese as UN Special Rapporteur

Dear President,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, write to express our grave concern regarding the continued tenure of Ms. Francesca Albanese as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories.

The mandate of a UN Special Rapporteur requires strict impartiality, intellectual integrity, and scrupulous adherence to universally accepted standards against discrimination. The authority of the Human Rights Council rests upon the credibility of its mandate holders. When that credibility is compromised, the institution itself is weakened.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Albanese publicly referred to the United States as being "subjugated by the Jewish lobby."¹ Such language reflects a classic antisemitic trope alleging Jewish control over governments. The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, adopted by the European Parliament² and endorsed by the European Commission³, explicitly identifies allegations of Jewish control over political institutions as a contemporary manifestation of antisemitism. Statements of this nature are fundamentally incompatible with the standards expected of a UN Special Rapporteur.

Beyond past statements, concerns persist regarding Ms. Albanese's conduct while in office. She recently participated in public forums hosted by Al Jazeera in which Mr. Khaled Mashal was present⁴, a senior figure of **Hamas**, which has been designated as a terrorist organization by the European Union since 2003 under Council Common Position 2001/931/CFSP.⁵ She claimed that "international law has been stabbed in the heart" and accused Israel of being the "common enemy" of humanity. Engagement in platforms alongside leaders of a listed terrorist organization raises serious questions regarding judgment, neutrality, and the appearance of political alignment.

Furthermore, Ms. Albanese has appeared at events involving representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.⁶ The European Union maintains extensive sanctions against Iran and has imposed restrictive measures against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).⁷ While engagement with diverse actors is part of international diplomacy, mandate holders must exercise heightened caution to avoid any perception of legitimizing regimes or organizations associated with systematic human rights violations and destabilizing activities.

¹ <https://www.jns.org/un-rapporteur-said-jewish-lobby-control-us-compared-israelis-to-nazis/>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2017-0243_EN.html

³ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-antisemitism/key-eu-documents_en

⁴ <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20260209-senior-hamas-official-khaled-mashaal-signals-political-repositioning-without-abandoning-resistance-principles/>

⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-terrorism/>

⁶ <https://iranpress.com/content/315173/iranian-foreign-minister-travels-qatar-for-jazeera-forum>

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/29/eu-formally-designates-iran-irgc-revolutionary-guards-terrorist-organisation>

The issue before us, however, is not political disagreement over policy. It is the preservation of the integrity of the UN human rights system. A Special Rapporteur must not only be impartial; they must be seen **to be impartial**. When previous statements reflect narratives that fall within internationally recognized definitions of antisemitism, and when professional conduct gives rise to repeated concerns regarding neutrality, confidence in the mandate is irreparably eroded.

At a time when antisemitism is rising sharply across Europe and globally, and when trust in multilateral institutions is under intense scrutiny, the Human Rights Council cannot afford ambiguity in its standards. The European Union has consistently supported the universality of human rights and the integrity of international institutions. We therefore believe it is imperative that the Council initiate an immediate and transparent review of Ms. Albanese's conduct.

In the interest of restoring confidence in the impartiality of the mandate and safeguarding the credibility of the Human Rights Council, **we respectfully call for Ms. Albanese's resignation.**

The fight against discrimination, hatred, and terrorism demands clarity and consistency. The standards applied to others must apply equally to those entrusted with upholding them.

We remain committed to constructive engagement with the United Nations and to strengthening the credibility of international human rights mechanisms.

Yours sincerely,

MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen (the Netherlands)
MEP Hildegard Bentele (Germany)
MEP Miriam Lexmann (Slovakia)
MEP Kristoffer Storm (Denmark)
MEP Sebastiaan Kruis (Netherlands)
MEP Alexandr Vondra (Czech Republic)
MEP Ondrej Krutilek (Czech Republic)
MEP Nora Junco García (Spain)
MEP Diego Solier (Spain)
MEP Georgiana Teodorescu (Romania)
MEP Veronika Vrecionova (Czech Republic)
MEP Mariusz Kamiński (Poland)
MEP Sebastian Tynkkynen (Finland)
MEP Tiago Moreira de Sá (Portugal)
MEP Alice Teodorescu Måwe (Sweden)
MEP Sander Smit (Netherlands)
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MEP Monika Hohlmeier (Germany)
MEP Mariateresa Vivaldini (Italy)