

RESTRICTIONS ON PALESTINE SOLIDARITY



Key trends in 2023

- 🔍 **Disproportionate measures enforced on protests, including pre-emptive banning based on risk to “public order” and “security”**
- 🔍 **Protesters subject to intimidation, harassment, and arbitrary detentions**
- 🔍 **Legitimate criticism of Israeli authorities conflated with antisemitism and “apology for terrorism”; and used to silence Palestinian and Jewish activists and organisations**

Targeted recommendation:

- 🔍 **Condemn, at the highest political level, unlawful restrictions on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression; address these restrictions in the Annual Rule of Law Cycle and make recommendations to member states to respect the right to peaceful assembly at all times, as per international law.**

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Summary

Following the new dramatic escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine, people in Europe expressed solidarity, concerns, their opinions, their demands, hope, anger and grief collectively in numerous ways. Several member states have imposed undue restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression on those standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people, in violation of international human rights standards, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and rule of law principles. These developments have contributed to further polarisation in society, leading to an increase in hate speech and hate crimes targeting both Jewish and Muslim communities in Europe. Rights' restrictions have also disproportionately affected Palestinians, people of Arab descent and Muslim people and those perceived as such with cases of racial profiling to justify curtailment of rights. Additionally, while the restrictions were often justified in the name of fighting anti-semitism, Jewish organisations and activists critical of Israeli policies have been silenced and marginalised, and at times been accused of not being representative of Jewish people in Europe. In the context of the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 26 January, which found it plausible that Israel's acts could amount to genocide, and the new tragic developments on the ground in Gaza and across Israel/Palestine, ensuring accountability and justice is extremely urgent.