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## **EU: joint statement by Borrell and Lenarcic on humanitarian situation in Gaza. Assistance almost impossible, food at risk of going to waste**

“The crisis in Gaza has reached another breaking point. The delivery of any meaningful humanitarian assistance inside Gaza has become almost impossible and the very fabric of civil society is unravelling. Starving civilians are resorting to desperate measures to access the limited aid that trickles in”, EU High Representative Josep Borrell and Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič said about the situation in Gaza. “Due to the ongoing military operations and the collapse of law and order in Gaza, our partners are forced to operate in an unacceptably unsafe environment. The announcement of temporary ‘tactical pauses’ for delivering humanitarian assistance has not resulted in any improvement in the security environment for humanitarian actors on the ground”. They added: “The latest updates from humanitarian organisations attempting to deliver essential aid are highly concerning. Operations are at risk of breaking down if no action is taken. Once again, we call on all the parties involved in the conflict to uphold their international legal responsibilities: protect civilians, ensure their access to basic services, provide a safe environment for humanitarian operations and grant unimpeded humanitarian access. We also call for an immediate and unconditional release of the hostages”. Humanitarian aid is piling up at the borders of Egypt and Jordan, including substantial EU-funded assistance. “Some of these aid supplies, such as food items, are perishable and at risk of going to waste. This is a significant blow to our humanitarian efforts and those of the whole international community”.

Valentina Bombelli