



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ALBANESE

13 February 2026 (AM)

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United Staff for Gaza regrets that the French, German and other Foreign Ministers have, based on evident dis- and misinformation, levelled unwarranted accusations against the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese. We appeal for a rectification of these errors and call for an end to personal attacks, threats, and disinformation targeting United Nations agencies, mandate-holders, and personnel.

The facts:

On 7 January, via remote pre-recorded video, Special Rapporteur Albanese delivered remarks to the [Al Jazeera Forum](#), a conference held by the media organization, in Doha, Qatar. The theme of the conference was “The Palestinian Cause and the Regional Balance of Power in the Context of an Emerging Multipolar World.” Special Rapporteur Albanese [spoke](#) to the commission of genocide of Palestinians and the ways in which the international community has, in her view, aided and abetted this genocide. **Midway through, the Special Rapporteur said that the system of global complicity in genocide – resting on financial interests, (social-)media algorithms, and the weapons trade – has been laid bare and has showed itself to be “the common enemy of humanity.”**

Soon, fabricated [video](#) and [imagery](#) circulated online, claiming that the Special Rapporteur had said that “Israel is the common enemy of humanity” – **a patently false distortion of her remarks**. On 10 February, a group of French parliamentarians, who had already levelled attacks against Special Rapporteur Albanese in the past, sent a [joint letter](#) to the French Foreign Minister, repeating false claims and distorting her remarks further in ways too appalling to describe. They asked the Foreign Minister to work towards imposing sanctions on her and have her stripped of her United Nations mandate.

The next day, in France’s National Assembly, the parliamentarian who had coordinated the letter repeated the false claims contained therein, and asked the Foreign Minister to confirm whether the Government would seek to have Special Rapporteur Albanese removed from her post. In an astonishing, vitriol-laden [response](#), the Minister said that France condemns her “outrageous and reprehensible remarks” and calls for her resignation. On 12 February, the German Foreign Minister [echoed](#) his French counterpart, condemning Special Rapporteur Albanese’s “recent statements about Israel” and asserting that “her position is untenable.” The [Austrian](#), [Italian](#), and [Czech](#) Foreign Ministers similarly amplified the misinformation.

In light of the above:

- 1- United Staff for Gaza **expresses alarm** that the French, German and other Foreign Ministers appear to have uncritically accepted as fact clear distortions of Special Rapporteur Albanese's remarks. **We encourage them to consider the evidence and retract their statements of condemnation.** We appreciate that the Austrian Foreign Minister has deleted her erstwhile post on X about this matter.
- 2- United Staff for Gaza **unreservedly condemns** dis- and misinformation and other hostile actions levelled against Special Rapporteur Albanese, as well as against the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). We deplore that the Special Rapporteur, as well as 11 ICC judges and prosecutors, have been [sanctioned](#) by the United States of America, and that UNRWA has been subjected, by the Government of Israel, to [violence](#), obstruction, and rampant disinformation. **We observe that this latest effort to distort Special Rapporteur Albanese's remarks fits into a wider campaign of [disinformation](#) aimed at undermining the ability of the United Nations to protect the human rights of the Palestinian people.** We express dismay at the falsehoods propagated by the French parliamentarians who co-signed the aforementioned letter, and welcome the [effort](#) by a separate group of French parliamentarians who have sought to set the record straight. **We reiterate that United Nations mandate-holders and personnel members must not be subjected to attack in the legitimate performance of their duties conferred upon them by Member States.** In this vein, we further reiterate our solidarity with the nearly 400 members of UN personnel who have been killed by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip since October 2023.
- 3- United Staff for Gaza calls for **unity of support** for Special Rapporteur Albanese, as well as for the ICC and UNRWA. We call on all Member States on the Human Rights Council to maintain their commitment to the integrity of the system of special procedures. We concur with the [statement](#) issued by the Secretary-General of Amnesty International in this regard, and welcome the [fact-checking provided](#) by the Spokesperson of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- 4- United Staff for Gaza also stresses that the international community must remain seized, and step up its condemnations, of the **relentlessly inhumane and illegal acts perpetrated by the Government of Israel against the Palestinian people.** These acts include, among many other brazen violations of international law, continued bombings in Gaza despite the supposed ceasefire, persisting restrictions on the delivery of critically needed humanitarian aid, outrageous violence against UNRWA, and forced displacement from and de facto annexation of the West Bank – all in flagrant contempt of rulings by the International Court of Justice.

A copy of this statement is to be transmitted to the President of the Human Rights Council. ///

United Staff for Gaza is an association of current and former members of United Nations personnel, acting in their private capacities. Visit our [website](#), contact us by [email](#).