

European civil rights groups, trade unions demand EU halt business with Israel



File photo: Boycott Israel demonstration in Paris

Brussels, February 5 (RHC)-- A coalition of over 160 civil society groups, NGOs, and trade unions, on Tuesday called on the European Commission to ban business and trade with the Israeli regime due to its ruthless actions in the occupied West Bank.

In a letter addressed to Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, the coalition obliged her to follow the international law and ban all business and trade with the Israeli regime.

The demand follows a landmark advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in July 2024, which urged countries to cease all business and trade with Israel and not contribute to the unlawful situation created by the regime in the West Bank.

EU member states have repeatedly and unanimously condemned the regime for its actions in the occupied West Bank. But they have never stopped conducting business with the regime or supplying it with military equipment.

Since the ceasefire between Palestinian resistance groups and the regime, Israel has embarked on a campaign of death and destruction in the West Bank.

The coalition hopes that their efforts can put enough pressure on the EU and force it to take the first step towards following the international law and stop conducting business with the Israeli regime.

The coalition has demanded that the EU members “propose legal acts banning all imports and exports of goods and services from and to Israel’s settlements in the occupied West Bank as well as investments therein.”

It has also demanded that the member states “publish a reinforced advisory document discouraging European businesses from activities benefiting the Israeli settlements.”

Despite significant resistance from civil rights groups, it seems the EU is either unable or unwilling to adopt appropriate measures against the Israeli regime’s crimes against humanity.

On January 15, the Israeli regime, failing to achieve any of its war objectives including the “elimination” of Hamas or the release of captives, was forced to agree to a ceasefire deal with the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

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