

STATEMENT

OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SAEIMA

On the escalation of the conflict between Israel and Palestinians

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

expresses concern about the worsening of relations between Israel and Palestinians, which has turned into an armed conflict, resulting in the deaths of more than 200 people since 10 May 2021;

deplores the escalation of violence *and calls for* a diplomatic solution to the conflict;

expresses its condolences to all victims of the armed conflict and their families;

condemns all violations of human rights and international humanitarian rights;

strongly condemns the rocket attacks against Israel and its people carried out by the terrorist organisation Hamas;

recognises Israel's right to protect its people from rocket attacks *and*, at the same time, *underscores* the importance of exercising maximum restraint;

stresses the need to pay particular attention to the safety of journalists and media representatives working in the areas affected by the conflict for them to be able to perform their duties free from fear;

emphasises the obligation of both parties to respect human rights and international law in all circumstances;

calls for an end to the armed conflicts and all forms of violence that endanger the lives of innocent civilians;

calls on both parties to refrain from further unilateral actions that could further exacerbate the conflict and delay its settlement on the basis of the two-state solution;

urges the international community to mobilise all necessary efforts for the conflict to be resolved through negotiations between the representatives of Israel and Palestinians to ensure lasting peace in the region.