

# Silence is Complicity:

## Our statement after more than one year of silence on the Israeli Genocide in Gaza/Palestine

For more than a year, the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) has remained silent on the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza, failing as a network to unify toward a common position. BVMN advocates for the right to life and freedom of movement for people on the move across Europe and calls for accountability of human rights violations at the borders. Remaining silent about the attempted systematic annihilation of the Palestinian people has undermined the very principles of justice and solidarity that define our work.

Struggles to seize land and natural resources have long triggered wars and conflicts, driving millions to flee their homes or migrate in search of safety and dignity. These matters are not separate from the issues of migration and forced displacement but are deeply intertwined. Palestine is one of many countries where imperial intervention has produced decades of violence and dispossession. As a network committed to dismantling border violence, we must also commit to challenging the root causes of forced displacement, including settler-colonialism, occupation, and militarised violence.

The Palestinian struggle for freedom resonates deeply with many members of the network and the communities BVMN works with—many of whom have survived deadly European border zones, resisted deportation, or endured the systemic racism of the EU border regime. These individuals are not merely victims of border violence but active political subjects resisting oppression in its many forms. Standing in solidarity with their struggles means recognizing the interconnectedness of global systems of oppression and the fight against colonization. Ignoring the genocidal war in Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestine has been a failure to live up to our principles in practice. Centering Palestine in this moment is a necessary reaffirmation of our commitment to these values.

As such, we must address the geopolitical context that connects Palestine to other violent border regimes BVMN advocates against. Through deals with actors in the Middle East and North Africa, including Turkey, Egypt and Tunisia, the EU outsources its border management, a continuation of the same imperial logic that underpins the occupation of Palestine. These agreements aim to prevent the safe movement of populations towards Europe, while perpetuating cycles of exploitation and violence.

The MENA region is currently in a state of heightened insecurity, exacerbated by the uncertainty that has followed the overthrow of the Assad regime in Syria and ongoing interventions there by Turkey, Israel and other foreign powers. In this context, we see a dangerous pattern emerging. Bombing campaigns and land grabs—from Syria to Palestine and Lebanon—force more people to flee and actively feed into violent border regimes.



At the same time, in Europe, governments are increasingly backing xenophobic narratives and policies. They target people on the move, particularly Muslim populations, with racist tropes, using those narratives to justify harsher border policies and deportations. Under the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration, member states are taking concrete steps to escalate mass detention and deportations.

We know that the current temporary ceasefire agreement in Gaza is extremely fragile. While BVMN supports all efforts to immediately stop genocidal warfare and to free all Palestinian and Israeli hostages, the root causes of violence have not been addressed. Without meaningful political solutions and critical humanitarian support, the genocide continues on more subtle levels - through environmental wreckage, mass displacement, starvation and the destruction of the healthcare system.

For its part, BVMN must confront its silence and take decisive action if it is to participate with integrity in movements for justice and freedom. To that end, the network commits to the following steps:

- **Facilitate ongoing dialogue on the question of Palestine and our understanding of solidarity within the network and partners of BVMN to work together on joint actions. This includes connecting Palestinian struggles against Israel's settler colonial project and broader liberation struggles with our work.**
- **Highlight links between violence committed in Palestine and experiences of EU border violence. This should include continued investigation of the involvement of Israeli companies in developing technologies deployed in the EU's deadly border regime.**

