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Permanent Representation of Spain

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**14<sup>th</sup> Session**

**(31 May - 18 June 2010)**

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**Urgent Debate on the Raid on the Flotilla**

**by Israeli Defence Forces**

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**Statement by**

**H.E. Ambassador Javier GARRIGUES**

**Permanent Representative of Spain  
to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

**on behalf of the European Union**

**Geneva, 1 June 2010**

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**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**  
**14th session**  
**(Geneva, 31 May -18 June 2010)**

**EU Statement for 'HRC urgent debate'**  
**on Israel's military operation against Gaza flotilla**  
**Geneva, 1 June 2010**

I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The European Union expresses its deepest concern about the events that took place in international waters on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2010. We deeply regret the loss of life during the Israeli military operation against the Flotilla sailing to Gaza. We wish to send our condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives and hope for a speedy recovery of those injured.

The EU condemns the use of violence that has resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and supports the Security Council's demands for an immediate, full and impartial inquiry in conformity with international standards into the events and the circumstances surrounding them. The EU demands the immediate release of the ships and the civilians held by Israel.

The European Union reiterates that the humanitarian and human rights situation in Gaza remains a source for grave concern. Fully recognising Israel's legitimate security needs, the EU asks the State of Israel to promote the movement and flow of commercial goods, humanitarian and reconstruction aid, and persons to and from Gaza. The EU does not accept the continued policy of closure. It is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. We need to urgently achieve a durable solution to the situation in Gaza. We stress that further improvements should be made in addition to the full and sustained implementation of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access.

We call on Israel to continue to provide Member States with consular access to and information about their citizens. The EU calls upon all parties and relevant actors to strive to prevent a further escalation of tensions. We once again underline the need to continue the proximity talks to continue without hindrance with a view to resume direct negotiations.

Thank you, Mr. President.