

Omar is a Palestinian journalist. He lives presently in Brussels where he has been granted asylum. He comes from an occupied state which has never known freedom. He has spent his entire life resisting occupying forces through his work as a journalist. He finds himself in Brussels because he thought he could get support here. A year has passed and no progress has been made regarding Palestine's situation. Since October 7th, the Gaza Strip has finally started to matter in the eyes of the global community. For the past three months, Omar hasn't ceased in his attempts to demand appropriate action from authorities in confronting the slaughter of his people. During this time, he considered initiating a hunger strike in response to the inaction of authorities to the rallying of thousands of people in Belgium and millions worldwide. Therefore, he decided to stage a strict hunger strike on December 31st, 2023. His intake includes neither food nor supplements, just water and salt. Given we're witnessing the slaughter of people thousands of miles away with no reaction from authorities, perhaps seeing a man perish on their doorstep will create a sense of agency among them. Since the first day of his protest, he has vowed not to eat until measures are taken against Israel. "Ceasefire or death!", his death, to be precise.

There is a real risk to his health. 25 days (On 23.01.2024) have elapsed since he initiated a hunger strike. Omar is weak, exhausted, and, consequently, can do almost nothing. This protest poses a serious threat to his life. He could easily develop complications. We have contacted several media outlets and also political figures but have not received any response, nor any sign of interest or concern for his well being. Our demands are as follows:

- access to humanitarian and medical aid, and an end to the blockade in Gaza
- acknowledgment of the genocidal acts perpetrated against the Palestinian population
- a ban on the selling of arms and all military technology to Israel
- severance of all diplomatic relations with Israel
- an embargo on the supply of petrol and gas to Israel until such time as a ceasefire has been put in place
- an appeal to the International Criminal Court with a view to issuing arrest warrants against Israeli leadership for perpetrating war crimes and acts of genocide.

Only one outcome will grant an end to the hunger strike for Omar, namely **that Belgium and also the EU condemn outright the actions of the State of Israel as genocidal and stop military support of Israel.**

Omar can be contacted on **04 66 35 08 88** or ovv0918@gmail.com for more information or to arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your patience.

Hunger Strike Support Committee for Palestine