# Israeli forces fire warning shots at diplomatic delegation in West Bank sparking global condemnation



Governments worldwide have expressed outrage following an incident on May 21, 2025, when Israeli forces fired warning shots at a diplomatic delegation in the occupied West Bank. The situation unfolded near the Jenin refugee camp, where representatives from multiple countries, including those from the European Union, the United Kingdom, and China, were visiting as part of an organised trip to assess conditions on the ground. Despite the Israeli military's assertion that the shots were fired into the air as a response to the delegation deviating from an agreed route, the act has been widely condemned as an alarming breach of diplomatic protections.

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the soldiers aimed to "distance" the diplomats from the area, yet the international community reacted with immediate disbelief. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney demanded a thorough investigation into the incident, labelling the shooting as "totally unacceptable." Echoing this sentiment, UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Hamish Falconer highlighted the importance of protecting civilians and diplomats, calling for accountability.

Political leaders across Europe have also expressed their shock and condemnation. The French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot, who participated in summoning the Israeli ambassador, stated, “A visit to Jenin, in which one of our diplomats was participating, was fired upon by Israeli soldiers. This is unacceptable,” reaffirming calls for a full investigation into the events. Italy’s Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani joined the chorus of condemnation, urging Israel to clarify the circumstances surrounding the shooting, emphasising that threats against diplomats are intolerable.

Such international outcry is not unfounded, as the delegation included diplomats from 30 nations, many of whom were clearly identifiable by their official vehicles. Despite this, the Israeli military justified the action by claiming the diplomats had entered a restricted area, a statement met with scepticism given the prior coordination of the visit with both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities. The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the incident as a violation of international law and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, calling for accountability and a comprehensive investigation.

This episode occurs against a backdrop of escalating tensions in the West Bank, particularly since the onset of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023, which has seen military operations intensify. The situation in Gaza, where humanitarian conditions are dire, has exacerbated these tensions. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has focused Israel's military strategies on eliminating Hamas leadership, a campaign that has drawn widespread international criticism due to the high civilian toll. Reports indicate that over 54,000 Palestinians have died during this conflict, prompting nations like Canada, the UK, and France to threaten sanctions unless Israel shows restraint.

The irony of such incidents underscores a tragic reality of ongoing conflict; the very individuals tasked with promoting peace and stability are put at risk, intensifying fears over the safety of diplomatic missions in volatile regions. As nations like Belgium and Norway demand explanations, the incident not only raises questions regarding Israel's approach to diplomacy but also exemplifies a breach of established international norms designed to protect diplomatic personnel.

Calls for a detailed investigation are mounting, with numerous countries summoning Israeli ambassadors to provide justifications for the shooting. The Danish Foreign Minister articulated sentiments echoed by many, stating there is "no place anywhere" for such conduct, emphasizing the need for respect towards diplomats who play a pivotal role in international dialogue.

As the international community grapples with these escalating tensions, the Jenin shooting incident highlights significant challenges in fostering diplomatic relationships amid a conflict that shows little sign of resolution. Analysts suggest that maintaining dialogue is crucial; however, incidents like this threaten that very foundation, complicating efforts toward peace and stability in an already fraught geopolitical landscape.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/22/governments-condemn-israel-for-firing-towards-diplomats-in-west-bank), [[2]](https://time.com/7287468/european-leaders-summon-israeli-ambassadors-warning-shots-diplomats/), [[3]](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-delegacion-diplomaticos-cisjordaniabr.html)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/22/governments-condemn-israel-for-firing-towards-diplomats-in-west-bank), [[3]](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-delegacion-diplomaticos-cisjordaniabr.html)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/22/governments-condemn-israel-for-firing-towards-diplomats-in-west-bank), [[4]](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-21/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-contra-una-delegacion-de-diplomaticos-europeos-y-de-otros-paises-en-cisjordania.html)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/22/governments-condemn-israel-for-firing-towards-diplomats-in-west-bank), [[2]](https://time.com/7287468/european-leaders-summon-israeli-ambassadors-warning-shots-diplomats/), [[5]](https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/05/21/espana-convoca-al-responsable-de-la-embajada-de-israel-en-madrid-tras-los-intolerables-disparos-a-diplomaticos-europeos-cadena-ser/)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/22/governments-condemn-israel-for-firing-towards-diplomats-in-west-bank), [[3]](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-delegacion-diplomaticos-cisjordaniabr.html), [[4]](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-21/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-contra-una-delegacion-de-diplomaticos-europeos-y-de-otros-paises-en-cisjordania.html), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/3a231f5a-9377-4b3d-841d-cde3c3e5660f)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/22/governments-condemn-israel-for-firing-towards-diplomats-in-west-bank), [[2]](https://time.com/7287468/european-leaders-summon-israeli-ambassadors-warning-shots-diplomats/), [[4]](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-21/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-contra-una-delegacion-de-diplomaticos-europeos-y-de-otros-paises-en-cisjordania.html), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/3a231f5a-9377-4b3d-841d-cde3c3e5660f)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/22/governments-condemn-israel-for-firing-towards-diplomats-in-west-bank> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://time.com/7287468/european-leaders-summon-israeli-ambassadors-warning-shots-diplomats/> - On May 21, 2025, French and Italian foreign ministers summoned Israeli ambassadors after Israeli soldiers fired "warning shots" at a European diplomatic delegation visiting Jenin in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. While no injuries were reported, the incident drew swift condemnation from multiple European leaders. France's Jean-Noël Barrot and Italy's Antonio Tajani demanded formal explanations, labeling the shots as "unacceptable." Ireland’s Deputy Prime Minister Simon Harris expressed shock, revealing that Irish diplomats were present. German and Belgian officials also issued strong condemnations, calling the action unprovoked and demanding answers. The EU’s High Representative, Kaja Kallas, stressed the need for accountability. Israel's Foreign Ministry stated that the shots were a response to the delegation deviating from an approved route and expressed regret. The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs labeled the incident a violation of international law and rejected the Israeli account. The West Bank, particularly Jenin, has seen escalating tensions and military activity since the onset of the Israel-Hamas war, with ongoing clashes involving various militant factions. ([time.com](https://time.com/7287468/european-leaders-summon-israeli-ambassadors-warning-shots-diplomats/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-delegacion-diplomaticos-cisjordaniabr.html> - On May 21, 2025, Israeli forces fired warning shots at a diplomatic delegation near the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. The delegation, comprising representatives from 30 countries, including Spain, China, Russia, and members of the European Union, was visiting the area. The incident has been strongly condemned by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), which described it as a serious violation of international law and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. The visit was organized by the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to showcase the situation on the ground. The European Union has called for a comprehensive investigation and accountability. The Israeli military stated that the shots were fired into the air, alleging that the delegation inadvertently entered a restricted combat zone. Despite prior coordination of the route, the episode highlights the escalating tensions in the West Bank, especially in Jenin, where military operations have intensified since October 2023. ([huffingtonpost.es](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-delegacion-diplomaticos-cisjordaniabr.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-21/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-contra-una-delegacion-de-diplomaticos-europeos-y-de-otros-paises-en-cisjordania.html> - On May 21, 2025, Israeli forces fired warning shots at a diplomatic delegation of approximately 30 diplomats in Jenin, occupied West Bank. The group, organized by the Palestinian National Authority, was visiting a refugee camp. While the Israeli military claimed the shots were fired into the air, a video shows at least one direct shot towards the delegation. No injuries were reported. Countries including Spain, Italy, and France have condemned the incident and demanded a transparent investigation. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu justified the military offensive in Gaza as part of a plan to defeat Hamas, asserting that all of Gaza will be under Israeli control. Meanwhile, Gaza faces a severe blockade and bombings, with over 53,000 deaths since October 2023. Humanitarian aid continues to be inadequate, prompting criticism from the UN and human rights organizations. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has called for an end to attacks on children and immediate unblocking of assistance. The international community has intensified pressure on Israel over these actions. ([elpais.com](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-21/fuerzas-israelies-disparan-contra-una-delegacion-de-diplomaticos-europeos-y-de-otros-paises-en-cisjordania.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/05/21/espana-convoca-al-responsable-de-la-embajada-de-israel-en-madrid-tras-los-intolerables-disparos-a-diplomaticos-europeos-cadena-ser/> - Spain has summoned the head of the Israeli embassy in Madrid following the shots fired by the Israeli army during a visit by European Union diplomats to the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. A Spanish representative was present and unharmed. Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares has demanded clarity and accountability through social media, expressing support for the Spanish Consulate staff in Jerusalem. The incident has also been condemned by other European countries such as Italy and France, whose foreign ministers have requested immediate explanations. The Spanish government has issued a statement strongly condemning the actions of the Israeli Armed Forces and demanding an immediate and transparent investigation. It reminded Israel, as an occupying power, of its obligation to respect international law and protect diplomats. ([cadenaser.com](https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/05/21/espana-convoca-al-responsable-de-la-embajada-de-israel-en-madrid-tras-los-intolerables-disparos-a-diplomaticos-europeos-cadena-ser/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/3a231f5a-9377-4b3d-841d-cde3c3e5660f> - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that a recent airstrike likely killed Mohammad Sinwar, Hamas's Gaza chief, as Israel intensifies its ground and air offensive in Gaza under the operation "Gideon's Chariot." Netanyahu defended the campaign, stating that tens of thousands of Hamas militants have been eliminated since the war began on October 7, 2023. The offensive has sparked significant international criticism, with the UK, France, and Canada threatening targeted sanctions unless Israel halts military actions and allows more humanitarian aid. So far, Israel has permitted limited aid—under 250 food trucks—prompting warnings of imminent famine in Gaza. Netanyahu admitted allowing small amounts of food to stave off condemnation. Amid ongoing strikes, over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have died, compared to more than 1,200 Israeli deaths in the initial Hamas attack. Tensions further escalated when Israeli forces fired warning shots near a delegation of foreign diplomats in the West Bank. Ongoing talks in Doha regarding hostages and ceasefire have seen little progress, and the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to worsen amidst relentless military activity. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/3a231f5a-9377-4b3d-841d-cde3c3e5660f?utm_source=openai))