

## Resignation letter

To the president of the European Mathematical Society, the EMS Executive Committee and the editors of the EMS Magazine

Subject: *Resignation from the EMS in protest over the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza*

Dear colleagues,

With a sense of deep sadness and moral conviction, I hereby tender my resignation from the European Mathematical Society, of which I have been a lifelong member. I do so in protest against the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and in response to the EMS's silence in the face of such an unprecedented tragedy.

What we are witnessing is not a conventional military conflict, but a massive and disproportionate use of force against a civilian population. The death toll has reached devastating levels, with tens of thousands of civilians killed, including thousands of children. Entire families have disappeared from civil registries. Hospitals, schools, universities, refugee camps, and humanitarian convoys have been repeatedly struck. Access to food, clean water, medical care, and shelter has been deliberately obstructed. These facts have been documented in real time and are now widely recognized as evidence of possible crimes under international law, including by United Nations bodies and the International Court of Justice in its interim rulings.

As scientists, and as human beings, we cannot claim neutrality when faced with such large-scale human suffering. In such cases,

silence is not a position of balance—it becomes a form of complicity. The EMS, which rightfully took a public stance and suspended cooperation with a Russian state institution after the invasion of Ukraine [following the general policy of the European Union], has not found the strength to express even minimal concern or condemnation in response to a much longer and even more destructive campaign against civilians.

This discrepancy raises serious ethical questions. Scientific communities have a responsibility to uphold not only intellectual values, but also universal human values. We cannot selectively decide when to express solidarity, nor remain silent when the scale of suffering is so overwhelming and so clearly documented.

For these reasons, I am resigning from the EMS as an act of protest, in the hope that it may contribute to opening a serious and responsible debate within the mathematical community. This community has, in the past, shown sensitivity and courage in speaking out against injustice and violence. I believe it is time to do so again.

I respectfully request that this letter of resignation be published in the EMS Magazine, as a call to conscience and an invitation to reflect on the role of scientific societies in the face of grave human suffering.

Yours sincerely,

Enrico Jabara

Lifelong member of the EMS

Venice, 12 August 2025

## Response from the Executive Committee of the EMS

*The European Mathematical Society Executive Committee and the editor-in-chief of the EMS Magazine have, on the request of Professor Enrico Jabara, agreed to publish his letter of resignation above. It is the policy of the EMS Magazine to publish letters to the editors that are considered to be of interest to its readership, without indicating that the views expressed are the views of the EMS or those of the editors of the EMS Magazine. The publication of Professor Jabara's letter should not be seen as an invitation to start an open discussion in the Magazine and the Magazine retains the rights not to publish such follow-up letters. The response below from the EMS Executive Committee was sent to Professor Jabara.*

Dear Professor Jabara,

We have received your letter of resignation, and we are very sorry that you have decided to leave the EMS.

We all understand that the conflict in the Middle East has led to great suffering on both sides. As individuals of conscience, we agree with you that the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has reached unbearable and undefendable proportions.

The European Mathematical Society, as a legal organization under Finnish law, is not able to judge nor comment on the extent to which crimes may have been committed. We are not a political organization that speaks out on humanitarian crises, even those

that are consequences of wars or conflicts. As you say, we are all free to do so as individual human beings and scientists.

You are making a reference to our actions in response to the attack of Russia on Ukraine. At that time, the European Mathematical Society decided to follow the European Union's recommended actions against Russia and freeze cooperations with Russian state institutions. Consequently, we suspended collaboration with the Euler International Mathematical Institute. At the same time, we used the opportunity to express solidarity with our colleagues on both sides of the conflict. Our actions against the Euler Institute

were taken with some regret, as we fundamentally believe in the value and lasting benefit of apolitical scientific cooperation. In fact, while we were under some pressure to do so, we did not suspend collaboration with our two Russian society members, which are not state institutions: The Moscow Mathematical Society and the Saint Petersburg Mathematical Society. In line with this policy, we have not taken any action against institutions in the Middle East.

The European Mathematical Society Executive Committee