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## GERMANY'S SHIFT ON ISRAEL: REAL CHANGE OR HOLLOW RHETORIC?

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*Chancellor Merz's partial arms exports freeze for Israel has been characterized by analysts as both insufficient and significantly delayed*

Pressure is mounting on Germany to take a firmer stance against Israel as it aggressively expands its military offensive in Gaza and continues using starvation as a weapon of war. Following weeks of escalating criticism, Chancellor Friedrich Merz recently announced that he will no longer authorize exports to Israel of arms that could be used in Gaza, triggering divided reactions across the political spectrum.

While pro-Israel advocacy groups criticized the decision, opposition figures and some political analysts characterized it as both insufficient and significantly delayed. According to these experts, Germany needs to align with its European partners in applying coordinated pressure on the Netanyahu government to end the Gaza offensive and ensure unimpeded humanitarian aid access for Palestinian civilians.

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