

**Question for written answer E-005765/2014
to the Council
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Criminal offensive by Israel against the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Israel has once again launched an illegal military offensive on Gaza and the West Bank in the form of successive and indiscriminate bombardments that have already claimed the lives of more than 100 Palestinians and rising, including a significant number of children. Hundreds more have been injured and displaced.

This offensive brings to a head a period of heightened repressive action by Israeli occupation forces across the entire Palestinian territory in the form of a campaign of collective punishment against civilians, supposedly in reaction to the disappearance and subsequent confirmed deaths of three teenagers from an Israeli settlement, in as yet unexplained circumstances.

Why does the Council maintain a complicit silence rather than condemn Israel's policy of state terrorism, which is in breach of international law and the UN Charter?

Does it not take the view that Israel's actions warrant the cancellation of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, given Israel's manifest failure to comply with the article on upholding 'fundamental human rights'?

Does it not take the view that there are also implications for Israel's participation in EU programmes, particularly in the fields of 'security' and 'defence', neither of which can be separated from the repression of the Palestine population in the occupied territories?