

Question for written answer E-007003/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - Arbitrary detention by the Israeli Government of Members of the Palestinian Parliament

For years, Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council have been subject to unlawful administrative detention. In 2012, for example, the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention highlighted, in its Opinion No 58/2012, the arbitrary nature of the administrative detention procedure used by Israel to detain Palestinian citizens.

Since July 2014, the level of persecution in the West Bank has become worse. On 18 August, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, told the UN Security Council that approximately 300 search and arrest operations had taken place. One result of this persecution has been to increase the number of MPs placed in administrative detention to around 40.

By choosing to use administrative detention without charges, Israel places itself in breach of Articles 11(1) and 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Moreover, detaining MPs in this way deprives them of their right to the free exercise of their activity as elected representatives.

Does the High Representative intend to condemn the ongoing violation of the rights of Palestinian citizens and their elected representatives, which continues to be laid at Israel's door?

Article 2 of the association agreement between the European Union and Israel links the validity of the agreement to the observance of human rights.

Does the High Representative intend to take measures to have the association agreement cancelled with immediate effect?