

Question for written answer E-003115/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - Israeli occupation courts

On 15 March 2013 the Israeli army invaded the villages of Hares and Kifl Hares and detained nineteen young Palestinian men, who it linked to a motor vehicle accident involving a female Israeli settler. Their 'confessions' were obtained by torture. Fourteen of the young men were released. Five of them are currently still being held. These are the young men known as the 'Hares boys'.

Under the Israeli occupation, nine-year-old boys are treated as adults and held in normal prisons. The Hares boys are now between sixteen and seventeen. The age of criminal responsibility for Israeli citizens in the settlements is eighteen.

If the Israeli military courts maintain their version, with hearsay witnesses, such as other settlers and the occupying power's information service, Shabak, the Hares boys are facing long prison sentences for an 'offence' for which no clear evidence has been put forward throughout the trial to demonstrate their guilt.

Does the High Representative consider that the courts of an occupying power, such as Israel, are competent to try the inhabitants of occupied territories?

Does the High Representative condemn the violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?