

**Question for written answer E-009096/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/H Clampdown on freedom of expression in the State of Israel

The journalist Yolanda Álvarez, until recently a Spanish Television (TVE) correspondent for the Middle East, has now been removed from her post following a statement issued by a spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Spain in connection with her coverage of the Israeli attack on Gaza (claiming over 2000 mostly civilian lives) to the effect that she was from the outset effectively acting as a mouthpiece for Hamas, passing on messages, statistics, images and information on its behalf.

This was not an isolated incident. In recent years, the State of Israel has been seeking systematically to discredit journalists outside its camp in a bid to prevent word spreading of crimes committed by it in the occupied Palestinian territories.

1. Is the Vice President / High Representative aware of the situation regarding Yolanda Álvarez, whose life has been placed in danger by the State of Israel
2. Will the VP/HR make known her displeasure to the State of Israel regarding its actions?
3. What measures are being taken by the European External Action Service to protect European journalists being harassed by national governments?