

**Question for written answer E-010817/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL) and Ignazio Corrao (EFDD)

Subject: War crimes and human rights violations during Operation Protective Edge (2014)

The High Level International Military Group report on the after-effects of Operation Protective Edge led by the Israeli armed forces in 2014 draws conclusions that contradict those made in the report by the United Nations independent commission investigating the conflict (A/HRC/29/CRP.4 and A/HRC/29/52).

The first report, backed by a high-profile group of former European political leaders, including José María Aznar and Giulio Terzi, asserts that the 2014 war was 'lawful and necessary'. What is more, it denies any violations of human rights, international justice or laws against armed conflicts.

The United Nations independent commission report criticises both sides for committing systematic human rights violations and war crimes. In particular, it condemns the impunity of Israeli soldiers who committed human rights violations.

According to the report, the Israeli armed forces may have committed a war crime in their choice of weapons.

The two reports reach contradicting conclusions. Could the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Has the Commission carried out its own inquiries to assess the situation and identify where the responsibility lies?
2. In the Commission's view, how credible are the accusations levied in the United Nations report of violations of human rights and international law and, potentially, war crimes?