

Question for written answer E-010851/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Freedom Flotilla III

On Monday 29 June, the Israeli Navy intercepted a ship of pro-Palestine activists intending to break the blockade of the Gaza Strip along with three other vessels, which ended up returning to their port of origin.

The ship, part of Freedom Flotilla III, was transporting solar panels and medical aid to Gaza, while the three accompanying vessels were carrying parliamentarians, representatives of social movements and journalists. The passengers of Freedom Flotilla III stated that they wanted to draw attention to the land, air and sea blockade Israel has been imposing on the Gaza Strip since June 2006.

According to the information made public, the *Marianne* of Gothenburg, was 170 nautical miles from the port of Gaza when it was intercepted by the Israeli Navy. It was then transported to the port of Ashdod in southwest Israel.

Can the High Representative please give her view of this act of piracy, which breaches international law, and state what action she intends to take with the Israeli authorities in view of this episode?