Question for written answer E-010855/2015 to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative) Rule 130 Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Military courts in the West Bank

On 22 June, the Israeli human rights organisation, B'Tselem, published a report entitled, 'Presumed Guilty: Remand in Custody by Military Courts in the West Bank', which condemns, among other things, the fact that 'remand until the end of legal proceedings is the rule, not the exception, for most Palestinians'.

Also according to the report, thousands of Palestinians are being held in Israeli prisons waiting to be tried by the military courts and are treated as though they have already been found guilty, spending years under 'administrative arrest' without, in the vast majority of cases, even knowing what it is they are accused of.

As a corollary to these violations of the law and of human rights, the military courts hold jurisdiction over the civil population of vast areas of Palestine, including the entire West Bank.

Is the High Representative aware of the B'Tselem report? What is her assessment of its content? What conclusions does she draw from these violations of human rights, perpetrated by a country with which the European Union has several cooperation agreements?

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