

**Question for written answer E-002736/2016/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israel

Last month, two Israeli human rights organisations, B'Tselem and Hamoked, published a new report on the mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners during interrogations by Shin Bet, the domestic security service.

This report, which is based on witness accounts from 116 suspects interrogated at the Shikma prison between August 2013 and March 2014, documents the use of extreme methods such as sleep deprivation, exposure to extreme heat and even bans on showering or changing clothes for several days.

Unfortunately, this evidence supports other studies which have reported on the same techniques used in other prisons in the State of Israel. This may indicate that it is an official policy which legalises such interrogation methods.

In Europe, as in Israel, the fight against terrorism and the need to maintain security do not require human rights to be violated. It is important to respect this, as it is the cornerstone of civilisation.

What is the VP/HR's position on this new report?