

**Question for written answer E-001247/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Need for EU sanctions against Israel and the immediate suspension of the Association Agreement with Israel due to the crimes it has committed in Gaza

According to the international UN Independent Commission of Inquiry, set up to investigate the deaths of Palestinians in Gaza in the demonstrations from 30 March to 31 December 2018, Israeli security forces killed and maimed Palestinian demonstrators 'who did not pose an imminent threat of death or serious injury to others when they were shot, nor were they directly participating in hostilities' (28.2.2019).

The Commission's report documents that the demonstrators were killed in violation of their right to life and the principle of distinction under International Humanitarian Law, which prohibits deliberate killing and/or causing great suffering during an armed conflict or occupation. The Commission therefore concluded that members of the Israeli security forces may have committed war crimes; if they were acting in the context of a widespread or systematic attack, they constitute crimes against humanity.

Given that:

- political and military leaders are responsible for international crimes that they commit directly or exercising control over their subordinates,
- the International Criminal Court of The Hague is already conducting a preliminary investigation into charges against Israel,

will the Vice-President / High Representative say:

1. Why does she not propose that the Council impose sanctions against those who bear the hierarchical, moral and criminal responsibility for these crimes?
2. How will the EU react if the International Criminal Court asks the Member States to extradite those responsible for these crimes?