

**Question for written answer P-010189/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Force-feeding of Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike

The Knesset has passed at first reading a bill that would sanction the force-feeding of hunger-striking prisoners by the occupying power which runs the prisons where they are being held.

The bill is explicitly intended to provide a legal basis for breaking hunger strikes; it is a violation of international law and amounts to nothing less than the legalisation of torture.

The Israeli Government has approved a number of laws which flout international law, including one preventing lawyers from visiting prisoners and another which allows those running Israeli prisons to impose harsher detention conditions on Palestinian prisoners. In a move which would again breach international law, there are plans to introduce fresh restrictions on contact between external independent doctors and hunger strikers.

The Declaration of Malta issued by the World Medical Association classes force-feeding as a form of torture and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture has condemned the practice. The Israeli Medical Association has criticised the proposed legislation, but the doctors working for the Israeli prison service are not members of the association.

1. Will the VP/HR issue a statement on the treatment of hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners and the violation of international, and EU, law that it constitutes?
2. Will the VP/HR call for a review of the association agreement between the EU and Israel and the aid allocated to the country, on the basis of Article 2 of the agreement?