

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0249/09
by Willy Meyer Pleite (GUE/NGL)
to the Council

Subject: Freezing the EU-Israel Partnership Agreement because of the war in Gaza

The military offensive launched on 27 December against the Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli Government is Israel's most important military offensive since the Six Days War of 1967.

Since June 2007 the entire Palestinian population of Gaza, 1.5 million people, has been trapped there under an imposed blockade.

Before the June ceasefire came into force, the first half of 2008 had seen 420 Palestinians killed at the hands of Israeli troops, including some 80 children. During the same period, armed Palestinian groups killed 24 Israelis, including four children.

On 4 November, Israeli troops carried out an overland raid and several attacks in Gaza, resulting in the deaths of six Palestinian activists. This unilateral breaking of the truce by Israel led to the launching of dozens of Palestinian rocket attacks on nearby areas and villages in the south of Israel, without causing any victims or damage.

By the eighteenth day of a war which contravenes international criminal and humanitarian law, 900 people had been killed and 4 000 had been seriously wounded.

Given the tragic situation in which the civilian population find itself,

does the Council intend to freeze the EU-Israel Partnership Agreement as long as Israel fails to comply with Article 2 thereof, whereby the Agreement is dependent on respect for human rights?