

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0803/09
by Paul van Buitenen (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: EC funding of a court case against Israeli officials

In Spain a court case has been launched against Israeli officials which focuses on the 2002 air force attack that killed a senior Hamas terrorist as well as some of his children. The court case has been launched using laws designed to bring notorious dictators to justice. Unfortunately, this law is now being abused by anti-Israel NGOs.

- Is the Commission aware that this court case was initiated by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) and that this NGO has received funding from the European Commission under the EIDHR programme?

The PCHR is based in Hamas-controlled Gaza. What mechanisms does the Commission have to ensure accountability of funding and prevent abuse?

- Even if the Commission can ensure that no EC funds were improperly used for this court case, EC funding does enable this NGO to use its remaining budget to that end. Does the Commission find that acceptable?
- Does the European Commission support or reject the attempt to condemn Israeli policy to protect itself from terrorist attacks?
- What, consequences, if any, does this have for European Commission funding for the PCHR?