

**Question for written answer E-005958/2012
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Ana Gomes (S&D) and Elisa Ferreira (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Illegal arrest of Palestinian theatre director Nabil Al-Raei by Israel

At 3 a.m. on 6 June 2012, Israeli military personnel raided the home of Nabil Al-Raei, the artistic director of the Freedom Theatre in Jenin Refugee Camp in the northern West Bank. The soldiers refused to say why they were detaining him. According to Al Arabiya TV, the Israelis confirmed the incident, saying that Raei 'was arrested (...) on suspicion of illegal activity'. Nabil Al-Raei was detained incommunicado, in an act representing a violation of detainees' rights under international law.

This marks the sixth time in the last 12 months that Israeli forces have arrested a member of the staff or board of the Freedom Theatre. According to Raei's wife, Portuguese national Micaela Miranda, he is currently being held incommunicado at the Jalame detention facility in northern Israel, and his lawyer has been unable to ascertain the exact reason for his arrest.

Palestinian security forces, in cooperation with Israeli security, have twice arrested Freedom Theatre co-founder Zakaria Zubeidi, who has been held without charge in a Jericho prison. The same Israeli and Palestinian security forces have failed to carry out any serious investigation into the unsolved murder of Juliano Mer Khamis, co-founder and director of the Freedom Theatre, in April 2011, despite the existence of substantial forensic evidence.

The Freedom Theatre is well-known for its advocacy of art as resistance against occupation. Several of its productions have toured Europe and the United States, but Israel has frequently obstructed its international performances.

1. Will the High Representative/Vice President take all necessary steps with the Israeli authorities to ensure the physical and psychological integrity of Nabil Al-Raei?
2. Will the High Representative/Vice President seek guarantees that he will be granted regular access to legal representation and family visits?
3. Will the High Representative/Vice President demand that he be immediately released in the absence of valid legal charges, and if such charges exist, that he be ensured a prompt and fair trial?