

**Question for written answer E-008840/2012
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Ana Gomes (S&D) and Elisa Ferreira (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Detention without charge of Zakaria Zubeidi

Zakaria Zubeidi, co-founder of the Jenin refugee camp's Freedom Theatre and a former Fatah militant who renounced armed struggle in 2006, has been held in prison in Jericho without charge or trial since 13 May 2012. He was detained in a wave of arrests in his home city following an attack by gunmen on the home of Jenin's governor, who shortly afterwards died of a heart attack. His lawyer, Farid Hawwash, was also arrested after criticising the Palestinian security forces.

According to Human Rights Watch, 'for more than four months, the Palestinian Authority has violated Zubeidi's basic due process rights to be charged and tried, and continues to ignore his statements that interrogators tortured him'.

On 9 September, Zakaria went on hunger strike. Later on he received assurances that he would be released, but at a court hearing on 17 September his detention was extended by a further 19 days. Zubeidi's detention is another blow to the Freedom Theatre, which has antagonised both Israeli and Palestinian authorities by criticising their actions. According to *The Guardian*, the theatre has been criticised by conservative elements in Jenin refugee camp over its mixed-gender acting workshops and progressive outlook.

1. Will the Vice President / High Representative make all necessary demarches with the Palestinian authorities to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of Mr Zakaria Zubeidi?
2. Will the Vice President / High Representative demand his immediate release in the absence of valid legal charges or, if such charges exist, ensure that he is given a prompt and fair trial?