

**Question for written answer E-003922/2013  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 117  
**Jill Evans (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Rights of Palestinians prisoners

There are currently over 4 700 Palestinian political prisoners being held in Israeli prisons, of whom 170 are administrative detainees. Israeli authorities use administrative detention to hold prisoners indefinitely on secret information without charging them or allowing them to stand trial. Neither the detainees nor their lawyers are informed of the accusations or evidence against them. Some prisoners are held without charge or trial for years on end.

This form of detention is a clear violation of Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that anyone who is arrested must be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and which condemns arbitrary arrest or detention.

Samer Issawi was arrested in July 2012. This was his third arrest. He has been on hunger strike since 1 August 2012 in protest to his unjust detention. Mr Issawi's health has now deteriorated to dangerous levels and his life is at risk.

1. Does the Vice-President/High Representative condemn the detention of Palestinians by use of administrative detention?
2. Does the Vice-President/High Representative believe that the Israeli policy on prisons must be changed?
3. What steps will the Vice-President/High Representative take to ensure that the Israeli authorities respect international law, stop the arbitrary detention of Palestinians and allow all prisoners to have a fair trial?