

**Question for written answer E-003923/2013  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)  
Rule 117  
Jill Evans (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Rights of Palestinian minors being kept as prisoners

There are currently over 4 700 Palestinian political prisoners being held in Israeli prisons, of whom about 240 are minors. During their imprisonment, they are subjected to shocking forms of interrogation, including intimidation, threats and physical violence. The majority of Palestinian children have been arrested for nothing more than throwing stones.

The maximum penalty for minor inmates aged between 12 and 13 years is six months, and up to 20 years for those over the age of 14.

Article 37 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that no child should be subjected to cruel treatment or punishment, nor should they 'be deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily'. Furthermore, the detention of a child should be in conformity with the law and only used as a last resort for the shortest appropriate period of time. The Israeli authorities are in clear violation of the Convention in their treatment of Palestinian minors.

1. Does the Vice-President/High Representative condemn the unjust detention of Palestinian minors by Israeli authorities?
2. Does the Vice-President/High Representative condemn the abusive treatment by Israeli authorities of minors detained in Israeli prisons?
3. Does the Vice-President/High Representative believe that the Israeli policy on prisons must be changed?
4. What steps will the Vice-President/High Representative take to ensure that the Israeli authorities respect international law and stop the arbitrary detention of Palestinians?