

**Question for written answer E-003929/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

Ana Miranda (Verts/ALE), François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE), Jill Evans (Verts/ALE) and Mark Demesmaeker (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - Rights of Palestinian prisoners

Since 1967, more than 750 000 Palestinian people have been arrested, detained and imprisoned under Israeli military law. This represents the highest rate of incarceration worldwide. The situation is still critical, since there are over 4 740 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails, including minors. Furthermore, Israeli security services detained more than 3 800 Palestinians in 2012, using reasons of security as justification. Detentions of this nature have also occurred at peaceful demonstrations, according to the Public Committee against Torture in Israel.

Israel's treatment of its detainees violates international law in a number of ways, including the detention of Palestinians for indefinite periods; the application of the Unlawful Combatants Law (which is a form of detention without charge, trial or judicial guarantees); and the violation of family visitation rights. Also, it is important to note that Palestinian prisoners and detainees have been increasingly subjected to regular and arbitrary torture and ill-treatment, as in the case of Arafat Jaradat, who died after being tortured in jail in February 2012.

On 13 March 2013, Parliament approved a resolution on the case of Arafat Jaradat and the situation of Palestinian prisons in Israeli jails. The resolution calls on the Israeli authorities to respect the rights of Palestinian prisoners and to protect their health, dignity and lives.

1. Does the Vice-President / High Representative condemn these acts of violence against the Palestinian people?
2. In light of these facts, does the Vice-President / High Representative believe that the Israeli policy on prisons needs to be changed?
3. What steps will the Vice-President / High Representative take to ensure that the treatment of Palestinian prisoners will respect international law?