

**Question for written answer E-005691/2020
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Clare Daly (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Recent demolitions of EU-funded structures for Palestinians in the South Hebron hills

On 30 September 2020, six Palestinian homes in the villages of Khirbet ar-Rakeez and She'b al-Batem in the Masafer Yatta district of the South Hebron hills in the Israeli occupied West Bank were demolished by Israeli bulldozers. The homes demolished in both communities were built with funding from the West Bank Protection Consortium. The consortium is a strategic partnership between the European Commission (in particular its Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – ECHO), nine likeminded EU Member States (including Ireland), the United Kingdom and international non-governmental organisations that aims to protect the most vulnerable Palestinians from Israel's forcible transfer. The structures were clearly marked as funded by the EU and a number of Member States.

The demolition was a clear violation of international law, including Articles 49 and 53 of the Geneva Convention. Such demolitions are part of a coordinated plan by the Israeli authorities to uproot Palestinian communities from their land in order to expand nearby Israeli settlements.

Following the spike in demolitions throughout the West Bank between March and August of this year, the EU reiterated its call on Israel to halt all such demolitions, including of EU-funded structures. Given that Israel continues to demolish Palestinian homes, in breach of international law, will the EU finally take real action against it?