

Question for written answer E-006192/2020

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Israeli demolitions of EU-funded structures in Palestine

On November 4, Israel demolished around 70 structures in the Bedouin village of Humsa al-Fuqa in the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank. Around 100 Israeli soldiers and six bulldozers demolished the structures, some of which were funded by the EU, leaving 74 people, 41 of them minors, homeless.¹ Israel claims that this Palestinian land in the West Bank is a firing zone, and that thus Palestinian residents have no property rights. However, some of the residents have stated that they have been renting the land from Palestinian owners for over 60 years.²

Given that from 2014 to 2019 approximately 536 structures funded by the EU and/or Member States with a total value of EUR 1 837 501 were demolished or seized by Israel³:

1. Does the VP/HR intend to seek compensation for the demolition of EU-funded projects, in line with the commitment made by his predecessor?
2. Would the VP/HR agree that the equivalent cost of EU-funded projects destroyed by Israeli military should be deducted from EU bilateral assistance to Israel (e.g. twinning, cross border cooperation, Horizon2020)?
3. Can the VP/HR name other countries in the world where the national authorities have been responsible for the destruction of EU- or Member State-funded infrastructure over the past five years?

¹ <https://twitter.com/btselem/status/1323978906920169473>
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² <https://www.972mag.com/demolition-west-bank-jordan-valley/> (<https://www.972mag.com/demolition-west-bank-jordan-valley/>)

³ EEAS, Six-Month Report on Demolitions and Seizures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem Reporting Period: 1 July – 31 December 2019 (https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/80131/six-month-report-demolitions-and-seizures-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem-reporting-period_en)