

Question for written answer E-004982/2021

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: Israel's decision to designate six Palestinian human rights NGOs as terrorist organisations

On 22 October, the Israeli Defence Ministry issued a military order accusing six Palestinian NGOs (Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al-Haq, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Defense for Children International-Palestine, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees) of being affiliates of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, thus designating them as 'terrorist organisations'.

The decision was made using the controversial 2016 anti-Palestinian terror legislation, which authorises Israeli security forces to close these organisations' offices, seize their assets, and arrest their staff members. Funding or even publicly expressing support for their activities is also prohibited.

Even if the Israeli Government has yet to provide evidence to support its claims, this decision will effectively outlaw the activities of these organisations, which are known internationally for their strenuous defence of the human rights of Palestinians and have through the years provided both the EU and UN with documentation on human rights violations and abuses committed by Israel.

The decision has already been condemned by the OHCHR¹ and other UN representatives²³, as well as by well-known international human rights organisations⁴, which consider it an attempt to criminalise and delegitimise human rights work.

1. What is the EU's assessment on the matter?
2. Will this Israeli decision have consequences on the EU's funding for these organisations?

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/578014429053553/posts/1829695803885403/?d=n>

² <https://twitter.com/cvoule/status/1452226671499751427>

³ <https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1451549710184026127?s=20>

⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/10/22/israel/palestine-designation-palestinian-rights-groups-terrorists>