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

Giuliano Pisapia (S&D), Alex Agius Saliba (S&D), François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE), Maria Arena (S&D), Margrete Auken (Verts/ALE), Robert Biedroń (S&D), Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew), Milan Brglez (S&D), Fabio Massimo Castaldo (NI), Ciarán Cuffe (Verts/ALE), Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE), Claire Daly (The Left), Tanja Fajon (S&D), Dino Giarrusso (NI), Francisco Guerreiro (Verts/ALE), Evin Incir (S&D), Aurore Lalucq (S&D), César Luena (S&D), Billy Kelleher (Renew), Chris MacManus (The Left), Martina Michaels (The Left), Alessandra Moretti (S&D), Javier Nart (Renew), Grace O'Sullivan (Verts/ALE), Sabrina Pignedoli (NI), Manu Pineda (The Left), Sira Rego (The Left), Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D), Alfred Sant (S&D), Isabel Santos (S&D), Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE), Ivan Vilibor Sinčić (NI), Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE), Patrizia Toia (S&D), Hilde Vautmans (Renew), Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

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/MaryLawlorhrs/status/1451549710184026127?s=20