

Question for written answer E-000759/2022

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: Hundreds of Palestinians being held in Israeli prisons

Israel is currently holding over 4650 Palestinian political prisoners in 23 jails. Dozens of them have been held for over 20 years. They include 34 women, 200 children and 550 inmates who are ill. They are being kept in unhealthy conditions, resulting in hundreds of COVID infections.

The 'administrative detention' of these hundreds of inmates is an infringement of any notion of human rights and is totally inadmissible since it allows them to be detained for months or even years, without any specific charges being brought against them, on the flimsy grounds that they are considered

'a danger to the security of Israel'.

The Israeli authorities reportedly subject prisoners to torture, such as food and sleep deprivation, beatings, electric shocks.

At the same time, the EU is maintaining close relations with the State of Israel in the form of political, economic and military cooperation.

In view of this:

1. What is the position of the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy regarding calls for an immediate end to the detention of Palestinians by the Israeli authorities and to the inadmissible practice of 'administrative detention'?
2. How does he view the increasingly close political, economic and military cooperation between the EU and Israel, which has merely served to legitimise and encourage its acts of brutality?