The EU strongly condemned the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. It is essential that a thorough, independent investigation clarifies all the circumstances of these incidents as soon as possible and that those responsible are brought to justice. It is unacceptable to target journalists while they perform their job. Journalists covering conflict situations must be ensured safety and protection at all times.

The EU also condemned the disproportionate use of force and the disrespectful behaviour by the Israeli police against the participants of the mourning procession.

The EU also regretted the decision to refuse entry to Israel to Manuel Pineda MEP, the Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Palestine. Respect for all elected MEPs and the EP is essential for good EU-Israel relations.

The EU and its Member States continue to closely monitor the developments on the ground, including the human rights situation in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territory. The EU raises its concerns about human rights violations of both parties in public statements and in bilateral contacts with its partners.