

**Question for written answer E-001943/2022**

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

Rule 138

**Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Murder of Palestinian journalist

On 11 May 2022, Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh was shot and killed for no reason and in cold blood as she came under Israeli army fire while covering incidents on the occupied West Bank.

Following this inadmissible killing, the Israeli police proceeded to launch an unprovoked and violent attack on Palestinian mourners carrying the coffin to the church where the funeral was to be held.

The death of Abu Aqleh follows the killing of dozens of Palestinians in recent months and is the result of an escalation of violence by the Israeli occupiers, who are targeting the Palestinian people with the endorsement of the US and EU, which claim to 'share the same values'.

The Israeli authorities have now had the effrontery to bar Manuel Pineda, head of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Palestine, from visiting the territory, which is totally inadmissible.

A recent Commission communication also refers to 'excessive use of force' by Israeli forces against those taking part in the funeral procession. In view of all the above:

1. Can the High Representative and Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, state his position regarding the EU's increasingly close economic, political and military ties with the State of Israel, which are emboldening it to target Palestinians with growing ferocity, including the use of deadly force, and intensify its acts of provocation?