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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(18.11.2022)

The EU has followed closely the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and deplored the increase in violence that not only results in tragic loss of lives, but also fuels tensions and animosity<sup>1</sup>. According to the reports by the United Nations agencies, 39 children have so far been killed in 2022<sup>2</sup>. The EU has been clear that maximum efforts should be undertaken to avoid putting children in harm's way.

The EU continues to call on Israel to abide by its international obligations, including with regard to children's protection under international law, as party to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. The EU recalls that any use of force must be proportionate and in line with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law, and should only be applied as a last resort when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life. The promotion, protection, fulfilment, and respect for the rights of the child are a priority for EU human rights policy.

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<sup>1</sup> EU's position for the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council held in Brussels on 3 October 2022: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/10/03/european-union-s-position-for-the-association-council-s-12th-meeting-held-in-brussels-on-3-october-2022/>

<sup>2</sup> Numbers reported by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Palestine and by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet (11 August 2022). Defence for Children International (DCI) - Palestine has so far documented the killing of 39 children in 2022.