

**Question for written answer E-001403/2023**

**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:** Clarification of EU Funds spent on the Palestinian Security Services

Parliament has condemned the occupation of the West Bank and expressed concerns about human rights violations in Palestine. However, the use of EU funds by the Palestinian Security Services (PSS) needs clarification.

The human rights situation in Palestine is worrying, with reports of political killings and harassment, including misuse of national security charges and anti-money laundering laws to silence critics. Recent incidents include the killing of Nizar Banat and the attempted assassination of anti-corruption activist Fadi Elasalameen after he leaked sensitive information about the Bank of Palestine and the Palestinian Intelligence Services to Al Akhbar, a Lebanese newspaper owned by the Hezbollah terrorist organisation.

The EU has announced EUR 296 million in support for the Palestinian Authority (PA). This funding is partially channeled through the PEGASE mechanism and aims to support public services. Meanwhile, the European External Action Service (EEAS) has reported that the PA allocates 30 % of its budget to the security sector.

1. What steps will the EEAS take to clarify how much of the EUR 296 million is specifically allocated to the PSS? How does it ensure that the funds are spent as intended?
2. How will the EEAS ensure that European funds allocated to the PSS and the PA Ministry of Interior are withheld until significant progress on human rights is made?

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