

**Question for written answer E-002190/2023**

**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:** Escalation of killing sprees by the State of Israel against the Palestinian people

An avalanche of violence has been unleashed by the State of Israel against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in the occupied West Bank.

Acts of violence are escalating, with a major Israeli military offensive in Jenin and air raids on Gaza tragically killing at least 12 Palestinians and wounding more than 10.

The 'counter-terrorism' pretext repeatedly used by the State of Israel is completely baseless. Since the start of the year, more than 30 Palestinians have been killed, including young children, and atrocious incidents have been reported by the international press even inside Jerusalem.

The Israeli government enjoys the ongoing political, economic and military support of the US and the EU.

What is the position of the EU High Representative / Vice President:

1. regarding the abhorrent killings of Palestinians on the West Bank by the State of Israel, which is an EU ally?
2. regarding the military operation in Jenin, the demand for it to stop immediately and for the Israeli occupation to end, recognising a sovereign Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital?
3. regarding the recognition of the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and the immediate release of Palestinian political prisoners from Israeli prisons, many of whom are being held in 'administrative detention', a deplorable practice.

Submitted: 12.7.2023