Question for oral answer O-000270/2011
to the Council
Rule 115
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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Subject: Situation of Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in Israel

Article 119 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to which Israel is a signatory, establishes that it is unlawful for a prisoner to be held in solitary confinement for over thirty consecutive days, regardless of the offence committed and even if he is answerable for several alleged incidents when his case is dealt with, whether they are connected or not. Article 116 also establishes that every prisoner has the right to receive visitors, especially near relatives.

Since 28 September, over 5000 Palestinians detained in Israel (including women, children and political representatives, and in particular members of parliament such as Marwan Barghouti and Ahmed Saadat) have gone on hunger strike in protest against solitary confinement and the worsening of the conditions in which they are being detained. The prison authorities have imposed severe penalties and unprecedented measures, provoking prisoners to express their rejection and protest by rebelling against all the rules in force in the prisons operated by the Occupying power.

Does the Council intend to condemn the Government of Israel and demand yet again that it comply with United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, failing which the Association Agreement with the European Union could be suspended?

Does the Council intend to demand that Israel immediately release all members of parliament and other detainees imprisoned before the Oslo Agreements and respect prisoners’ rights?

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