

Priority question for written answer P-001758/2022
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 138
Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Killing of the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh

On 11 May 2022, we witnessed through videos the Israeli army's cold blooded killing of the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, a well-known reporter for Al Jazeera. She was shot despite wearing a vest and helmet that were clearly marked 'Press'. Her fellow journalists and other people who tried to help her were also shot at.

In December 2020, the International Federation of Journalists complained to the United Nations about Israel's 'systematic targeting' of 'journalists working in Palestine', describing this as a violation of the right to life and freedom of expression and saying it may amount to war crimes. Israel has killed 33 Palestinian journalists since 1990; another 200 were physically attacked by Israeli forces in 2019 alone.

1. Will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy condemn the killing of this journalist with the same determination, force and political action as has been the case with other countries?
2. Will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy demand an independent and impartial investigation into what happened so the perpetrators may be brought to court?
3. Will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy activate the clause in Article 2 of the EU-Israel Agreement that makes relationships between the parties conditional upon respect for human rights and democratic principles?