

**Priority question for written answer P-002795/2023**

**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: Arrest and detention of Khaled El Qaisi

On 31 August 2023, Italian student Khaled El Qaisi was detained by the Israeli authorities at the border between Jordan and the West Bank as he was returning from a holiday in Bethlehem with his wife and 4-year-old son.

Detained in Ashkelon prison, Mr El Qaisi is still under administrative arrest as a precautionary measure without prosecution.

At the time of the arrest, Francesca Antinucci, Mr El Qaisi's wife, was removed with her son to Jordanian territory without telephone or cash and was only able to reach the Italian Embassy thanks to help from the local population.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of the alarming situation surrounding Mr El Qaisi's detention and is he in contact with the Italian authorities?
2. Does the Vice-President / High Representative consider the circumstances in which the arrest took place to be in open breach of Articles 5 and 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, since Mr El Qaisi was deprived of his liberty without waiting for the completion of the necessary judicial proceedings and without being informed of the reasons for his arrest, and because he was not given the chance to respond to the merits of any charge against him?
3. Will the Vice-President / High Representative urgently and promptly address this issue with the Israeli authorities to ensure that Mr El Qaisi's right to a fair trial, as recognised by international law, is respected?

**Supporter<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Pietro Bartolo (S&D)