Question for written answer E-002483/2026
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 144
Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE), Villy Søvndal (Verts/ALE), Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE), Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE), Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE), Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE), Catarina Vieira (Verts/ALE), Maria Ohisalo (Verts/ALE), Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE), David Cormand (Verts/ALE), Marc Botenga (The Left), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Cecilia Strada (S&D), Matjaž Nemec (S&D), Marco Tarquinio (S&D), Hanna Gedin (The Left), Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Manon Aubry (The Left), Chloé Ridel (S&D), Barry Andrews (Renew), Annalisa Corrado (S&D), Thijs Reuten (S&D)

Subject: Visa ban for (ex-)combatants of armed forces implicated in serious violations

On 9 June 2026, presenting the proposed 21st package of sanctions against Russia, the Commission announced a comprehensive visa ban for Russia's (ex-)combatants, who should not be authorised to enter EU territory[1].

The Office of the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, in its note of 20 June 2025[2], documented serious international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) violations attributable to Israeli forces. Even since the 'ceasefire' in Gaza, violations have continued, including with the intensification of the colonisation in the West Bank[3] and the indiscriminate bombing campaign in Lebanon coupled with ethnic cleansing[4].

French[5] and Italian[6] prosecutors have also opened 'war crime' and 'torture' probes over Israel's treatment of Gaza flotilla activists.

Therefore,

1. What justification underpins the proposed visa ban for (ex-)combatants of the Russian armed forces? Is this criterion transposable to Israeli (ex-)soldiers? If not, on what objective grounds is the distinction drawn?

2. Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) consider that the radicalisation and desensitisation to violence of Israeli soldiers, resulting from the commission of war crimes listed in the aforementioned note, pose a security risk if they are present on EU territory?

3. Does the VP/HR intend to propose a similar measure for Israeli (ex-)soldiers?

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1 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_26_1314 and https://x.com/kajakallas/status/2064303349546049856.
2 https://euobserver.com/32602/full-text-of-eu-report-on-israeli-crimes-in-gaza/.
3 https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/03/israels-settlement-expansion-drives-mass-displacement-west-bank-un-report.
4 https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/04/un-experts-condemn-israels-unprecedented-bombing-lebanon-after-ceasefire.
5 https://www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2026/06/05/french-prosecutors-open-war-crime-probe-over-israel-treatment-of-gaza-flotilla-activists_6754182_7.html.
6 https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/israeli-minister-ben-gvir-under-investigation-italy-over-gaza-flotilla-2026-06-08/.

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