

Question for written answer E-003095/2026/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Israel's destruction of the Gazan fisheries sector

Since October 2023, 238 fishermen have been murdered by Israel in Gaza, including after the ceasefire agreement¹. While around 110 000 Gazans depended on the fishing sector before the genocide began, the industry is now at risk: vessels and fishing infrastructure have been destroyed by Israel, materials needed to repair vessels have been subject to a blockade, access to the sea is strictly limited and fishermen are systematically targeted by Israeli gunfire².

Catches of fish – a vital source of protein for Gazans – have fallen to an all-time low. The 15 tonnes that could once be caught in a single day now take more than a month to reel in³. The destruction of the fisheries sector is starving the Palestinian people, driving their economy to collapse and completely eroding their resilience.

With this in mind:

1. What action does the Commission intend to take to support the Gazan fisheries sector, including by providing financial support for the acquisition of the necessary equipment and ensuring safe access to the sea, in order to continually ensure the Gazan people's right to food?
2. What action does the Commission intend to take to stop the Israeli blockade, which, in particular, deprives Palestinians of the materials needed to repair and maintain fishing vessels?

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¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2026/3/8/palestinians-risk-life-and-limb-to-fish-in-gazas-israeli-controlled-sea>.

² <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/building-to-starvation-systematic-attacks-on-fishing-in-gaza-and-implications-for-livelihoods-and-protection-may-2025/>.

³ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/gazan-fishermen-patch-up-dinghies-with-door-frames-keep-themselves-afloat-2026-06-05/>.