

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001952/25

to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Hana Jalloul Muro (S&D), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Rasmus Nordqvist (Verts/ALE), Villy Søvndal (Verts/ALE), César Luena (S&D), Lynn Boylan (The Left), Bruno Gonçalves (S&D), André Rodrigues (S&D), Oihane Agirregoitia Martínez (Renew), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Rima Hassan (The Left), Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE), Maria Walsh (PPE), Anthony Smith (The Left), Sandra Gómez López (S&D), Alex Agius Saliba (S&D), Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE), Estelle Ceulemans (S&D), Barry Andrews (Renew), Branislav Ondruš (NI), Matjaž Nemec (S&D), Lina Gálvez (S&D), Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE), Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE), Nikos Pappas (The Left), Catarina Vieira (Verts/ALE), Marta Temido (S&D), Reinier Van Lanschot (Verts/ALE), Leire Pajín (S&D)

(14 May 2025)

Subject: Israel's demolitions in Masafer Yatta

On 5 May 2025, Israeli forces carried out the largest demolition to date in the West Bank's Masafer Yatta region, razing most of the Palestinian village of Khallet al-Daba. Dozens of residents were left homeless, as 25 structures were destroyed, including six cave dwellings, 10 water tanks, and seven wells. These demolitions are part of a systematic policy targeting Palestinian communities located in areas unilaterally designated by Israel as military training zones.

Since October 2023, escalating settler violence and the expansion of illegal Israeli outposts have intensified, resulting in the death of 968 Palestinians, over 8 500 wounded, 9 900 imprisoned, and 46 000 displaced. Just last week, the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem experienced 373 Israeli military assaults, 57 shooting incidents by Israeli forces and 67 settler attacks.

The EU has repeatedly condemned the demolitions taking place in Masafer Yatta, including the destruction of EU-funded infrastructure, but this has had no tangible effect.

1. What actions will the Vice-President/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) undertake to effectively oppose the destruction of Palestinian communities and ensure their protection?
2. Will the VP/HR propose sanctions on those responsible in line with the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion?
3. How does the VP/HR intend to uphold the two-state solution while the occupation continues in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 (1967)?

Submitted: 14.5.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission

(1 August 2025)

The EU condemns the Israeli government's decisions to further expand illegal settlements across the occupied West Bank and urges Israel to reverse these decisions ⁽¹⁾.

Israel should implement orders of the International Court of Justice to cease all new settlement activities and to evacuate all settlers from the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) ⁽²⁾.

The EU strongly condemns the ongoing extremist settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and recalls that Israel is bound by international humanitarian law and applicable norms of international human rights law, including, as an occupying power, the obligation to protect the population under occupation ⁽³⁾.

The EU adopted sanctions (in April and July 2024) under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime against extremist settlers ⁽⁴⁾.

The Council has so far listed nine individuals, and five entities linked to violent extremism in the oPt and the blocking of humanitarian aid into Gaza. Additional listings proposals are under discussion currently in the Council. Sanctions are adopted by Member States by unanimity.

The EU reiterates its commitment to international law and to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine*, live side-by-side in peace within secure and recognised borders.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/qa3lblga/euco-conclusions-27062024-en.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/qa3lblga/euco-conclusions-27062024-en.pdf>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/07/15/extremist-israeli-settlers-in-the-occupied-west-bank-and-east-jerusalem-as-well-as-violent-activists-blocking-humanitarian-aid-to-gaza-five-individuals-and-three-entities-sanctioned-under-the-eu-global-human-rights-sanctions-regime/>.

The High Representative/Vice-President spares no effort to help revive the political process towards the two-state solution, including through the Global Alliance launched in 2024 ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽⁵⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/israelpalestine-global-alliance-implementation-two-state-solution-announced-unga-margins_en.

*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.