

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003559/25
to the Commission
Nikos Pappas (The Left)
(16 September 2025)**

Subject: Human rights violations in the occupied West Bank and the need to strengthen the protection of artists, journalists and activists

According to media reports ⁽¹⁾, the Israeli army has raided Oscar-winning Palestinian director Basel Adra's home in the village of At-Tuwani in the south of the occupied West Bank, following attacks by Israeli settlers on his family members. Since then, his whereabouts has remained unknown. This incident highlights the increasing tension and the systematic violations of human rights faced by Palestinian citizens, in violation of international law and the fundamental values of the European Union.

The EU has established the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 and Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999), while the protection of human dignity, freedom of expression and security of citizens is enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

In light of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to consider activating the global sanctions regime for individuals and bodies responsible for human rights violations in the occupied West Bank?
2. What initiatives does it plan to take, in cooperation with the European External Action Service, to strengthen the protection of artists, journalists and activists in conflict areas?
3. Does it intend to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and reporting human rights violations, promoting transparency and accountability in line with EU policies and values?

Submitted: 16.9.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(19 November 2025)**

The Council adopted sanctions (in April and July 2024) under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime ⁽¹⁾ against extremist settlers, listing nine individuals and five entities linked to violent extremism in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as well as the blocking of humanitarian aid into Gaza. Sanctions against those responsible for serious human rights abuses against Palestinians send a strong message, translating the condemnations into action. Additional proposals are currently under discussion in the Council.

The EU condemns the attacks on journalists as they violate the principles of press freedom and international humanitarian protocols, undermining the public's right to be informed about global conflicts — values the EU decisively upholds.

The EU will continue to uphold the right to freedom of opinion and expression both online and offline. It will remain resolute in the support for media freedom and the right of journalists and media workers to work under safe conditions, without fear of harassment, threats and violence.

The EU will remain committed to engage with governments, the media and civil society, both in international fora as well as at the local level, to take initiatives and strengthen press freedom around the world.

The EU continues to support independent investigations into violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those that may amount to international crimes, with a view to ending impunity for crimes committed.

¹ <https://gr.euronews.com/2025/09/14/dytkh-oxthi-israhlinh-epidromh-skhnotheths-brabeymenos-oskar-mpasel-antra>
(¹) <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-human-rights-abuses/timeline-human-rights-abuses/>.