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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.2.2026)

The EU strongly condemns the massive increase in settler violence, the policies and threats of forcible displacement and annexation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The EU has called on the Government of Israel to abide by its obligations under international law.

The EU has adopted sanctions under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (EUGHRSR) against extremist settlers. The Council has so far listed nine individuals and five entities linked to violent extremism in Israel, the West Bank and the blocking of humanitarian aid to Gaza, including Hilltop Youth¹. In its conclusions of 18 December 2025, the European Council reiterated its call on the Council to take work forward on further restrictive measures against extremist settlers and entities and organisations that support them².

As regards the possibility of listing Hilltop Youth under the counterterrorism sanctions regime, such a decision would be subject to unanimity in the Council. The legal prerequisite for a listing under Common Position 2001/931/CFSP (CP 931)³ on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, is a competent authority decision, for example a Court decision or a proscription order by an administrative authority. Such a decision should concern the involvement of the entity in question in a terrorist act as defined by Article 1(3) of CP 931. The practical effects of such a decision would be the same as those resulting from the listing under the EUGHRSR, namely an asset freeze.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/04/19/extremist-settlers-in-the-occupied-west-bank-and-east-jerusalem-council-sanctions-four-individuals-and-two-entities-over-serious-human-rights-abuses-against-palestinians/>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/wqmknoh4/en-20251218-european-council-conclusions.pdf>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/compos/2001/931/oj/eng>.