

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000496/26
to the Commission**

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(6 February 2026)

Subject: The case of Vincenzo Fullone and violations of human rights by Israeli authorities

According to national and international media ⁽¹⁾, an Italian citizen, Vincenzo Fullone, who took part in the humanitarian mission Global Sumud Flotilla, has reported serious abuses suffered during his detention by the Israeli authorities. Following the interception of the vessel in international waters and the forced transfer of passengers to Israel, Fullone reported that he was subjected to invasive searches of sexual nature, including practices described as rape ⁽²⁾, along with threats and insults. These incidents were reported to medical staff, the Italian consular authorities and the judicial authorities upon returning to Italy.

This testimony forms part of a broader pattern involving several European citizens who participated in the same mission, including the rape reported by German citizen Anna Liedtke. Consistent accounts indicate that EU citizens, not accused of criminal offences, were allegedly detained without adequate procedural safeguards, including access to a lawyer and timely contact with consular representatives.

In the light of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, the Commission is asked:

1. Whether it is aware of these cases?
2. What actions it has taken or intends to take against Israeli authorities?
3. Whether, in view of these allegations and documented violations linked to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, it intends to review the implementation of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, notably in relation to Article 2 on human rights?

Submitted: 6.2.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(13 April 2026)**

The EU has closely followed the case of the Global Sumud Flotilla. The EU generally discourages flotillas as a form of aid delivery. The EU delivers aid through proven and effective structures, with its partners on the ground.

However, it respects the intention of those on board of the flotilla ships to draw attention to the humanitarian plight of the population of Gaza.

Everyone has the right to exercise such activism and freedom of assembly; attacks against such flotillas are not acceptable. Such acts constitute the grave breach of humanitarian law.

While the authorities responsible for ensuring consular protection to the members of flotillas are the states to which the citizens belong, the EU supports independent investigations into all alleged violations of international law, including international humanitarian law.

The High Representative/Vice-President has conducted — with the support of a majority of Member States — a review of Israel's compliance with its obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾.

The conclusion of the review was that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of its obligations. Following the review, the President of the European Commission announced a set of proposed measures for the EU to address the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza.

¹ <https://www.ilgiornaleditalia.it/news/esteri/763073/flotilla-vincenzo-fullone-denuncia-israele-in-carcere-di-ketziot-mi-hanno-spogliato-e-stuprato-mi-hanno-anche-filmato-mentre-subivo.html>.

² <https://manassa.news/en/news/29523>.

⁽¹⁾ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2025/772892/EPRS_ATA\(2025\)772892_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2025/772892/EPRS_ATA(2025)772892_EN.pdf).

These include a reinforced package of sanctions, and a partial suspension of the Association Agreement on certain trade-related matters ⁽²⁾.

Discussions continue in Council on those measures. As part of the package, the Commission also put on hold its bilateral financial support to Israel, without adversely affecting work with civil society or Yad Vashem.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2112.