

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001323/26
to the Commission**

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(31 March 2026)

Subject: Israeli death penalty bill targeting Palestinians

On 24 March 2026, the Israeli Knesset's National Security Committee approved, for final readings, a discriminatory death penalty bill designed to apply exclusively to Palestinians, including through military legal structures in the occupied Palestinian territory. Executions would reportedly be carried out by hanging within 90 days of sentencing, with no possibility of pardon or commutation. The final vote on the proposal is imminent.

UN experts have warned ⁽¹⁾ that the bill would violate the most fundamental principles of international human rights law, including the right to life, fair-trial guarantees, and the prohibition of torture and ill treatment. It would also constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

In its reply to priority Question P-000517/2026 ⁽²⁾, the Commission described the proposal as discriminatory and contrary to international law, but did not address possible consequences under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

Can the Commission specify:

1. whether adoption of the bill would be considered a further breach of Article 2 of the Association Agreement;
2. what concrete measures it will propose or support in response;
3. whether it will update the current EU measures package, including with the addition of possible restrictive measures against those responsible?

Submitted: 31.3.2026

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

(22 May 2026)

The EU has a principled position against the death penalty in all cases and in all circumstances.

The approval of the Death Penalty Bill by the Israeli Parliament marks a grave regression from Israel's own practice and commitments. EU is deeply concerned about the de facto discriminatory character of the Bill, which violates international law.

EU urges Israel to abide by its previous principled position and with its obligations under international law, as well as its commitment to democratic principles, as reflected also in the provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾.

The High Representative/Vice-President (HRVP) issued a statement on 31 March 2026 on behalf of the EU's 27 Member States ⁽²⁾. The HRVP also raised the issue with the Israeli Foreign Minister.

In 2025, the HRVP, with the support of a majority of Member States, conducted a review of Israel's compliance with its obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

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

These include a reinforced package of sanctions and a partial suspension of the Association Agreement on certain trade-related matters. These measures remain on the table of the Council. The Commission has also put on hold its bilateral support to Israel, except for support to civil society and Yad Vashem.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/02/israel-un-experts-urge-withdrawal-death-penalty-bill>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2026-000517_EN.html.

⁽¹⁾ https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/31/israel-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-approval-of-the-death-penalty-bill-by-the-israeli-parliament/>.