(English version)

Question for written answer E-001417/26
to the Commission
Annalisa Corrado (S&D), Matjaž Nemec (S&D), Cecilia Strada (S&D), Sandro Ruotolo (S&D), Alessandro Zan (S&D), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Rima Hassan (The Left), Marc Botenga (The Left), Brando Benifei (S&D), Chloé Ridel (S&D), Georgia Tramacere (S&D)
(8 April 2026)

Subject: Latest report of the UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and on human rights violations by Israel

According to the latest report ([1]) presented on 23 March to the United Nations Human Rights Council by Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, Israel's use of torture against Palestinians has taken on a systematic and structural character, occurring not only within detention centres, but as a widespread practice throughout the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, which has been transformed into a veritable 'torturous environment'. The report documents practices such as waterboarding, beatings, burns, electric shocks, sexual violence and humiliation. Already in 2025, the UN Committee against Torture expressed grave concern over 'the application of a de facto State policy of organised and widespread torture and ill-treatment', while the UN Commission of Inquiry has found that Article II(b) ([2]) grounds of the Genocide Convention are established.

In addition, the Israeli Knesset has approved the application of the death penalty for Palestinians accused of terrorism, while Israeli military operations in Iran and Lebanon continue to affect civilians and innocent populations, further exacerbating instability and violations of international law.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the findings contained in the above-mentioned report, and what is its assessment of them?

2. What is the state of play regarding the assessment of a possible suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, in the light of the aforementioned persistent and documented human rights violations?

Submitted: 8.4.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(5 June 2026)

The EU has taken note of the Special Rapporteur's report. The EU condemns all acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, wherever these occur and it is steadfastly against the usage of arbitrary arrests and detention, as well as enforced disappearances.

The EU underscores the essential role, independence and integrity of the UN Special Procedures mandate holders. The EU will continue to support UN special procedures, mandate holders and other independent investigations into violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those that may amount to international crimes ([1]).

In 2025, in light of the catastrophic situation in Gaza, the High Representative/Vice-President 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 ([2]).

The conclusion of the review was that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of its obligations. Following the review, and given the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, the president of the Commission announced a set of proposed measures, including a reinforced package of sanctions and the suspension of certain trade-related provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

The Commission has also put on hold its bilateral support to Israel, with the exception of support to civil society and Yad Vashem. At the May 2026 Foreign Affairs Council, Foreign Ministers reached political agreement on the listings of violent extremist Israeli settlers under the EU's Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime. Discussions continue in the Council on other measures which require approval of Member States.

---

[1] https://www.un.org/unispal/document/torture-and-genocide-report-of-the-special-rapporteur-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-palestinian-territories-occupied-since-1967-advance-edited-version-a-hrc-61-71/.
[2] https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-prevention-and-punishment-crime-genocide.
([1]) https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5835-2026-INIT/en/pdf.
([2]) https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2025/772892/EPRS_ATA(2025)772892_EN.pdf.