

**Question for written answer E-003341/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Detention of members of the High Follow-Up Committee on the issues of the Arab population of Israel

The High Follow-Up Committee is the highest official body of the Arab-Palestinian minority in Israel, composed of the National Council of Arab Mayors, former and current members of Parliament, and other representatives.

Since the outbreak of the war on 7 October 2023, the Palestinian leadership, led by the High Follow-Up Committee, has exhibited the highest level of public responsibility and has done everything in its power to de-escalate tensions between Arabs and Jews in Israel.

On 9 November 2023, at least five leaders of the Palestinian minority in Israel, including the Chair of the High Follow-Up Committee, Muhammad Barakeh, and former members of Parliament Haneen Zoabi and Sami Abu Shehadeh, as well as Yossef Tatour and Mahmoud Mawasi, were arrested during a peaceful vigil calling for a ceasefire in Nazareth.

In the light of the latest news, how will the Commission:

1. exert direct pressure on Israel to immediately release the leaders of the Palestinian minority in Israel?
2. take more stringent and direct measures against Israel for its failure to respect human rights and the sovereignty of the Palestinians?
3. review its trade partnership with Israel considering the country's systematic violations of EU standards on the rule of law?

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