

**Priority question for written answer P-001714/2024
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 144

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Subject: Recent massacre in the Al-Mawasi ‘humanitarian zone’ in the Gaza Strip

Recently, Israeli airstrikes have killed around 20 people and injured another 60 in the Al-Mawasi ‘humanitarian zone’ in the Gaza Strip, where hundreds of thousands of displaced people have been sheltering after being ordered to move there multiple times by the military. Despite being designated a ‘safe zone’, Al-Mawasi has been hit several times, as in July when some 90 people were killed under the pretext of a strike against legitimate military targets, presumably hidden among the population. International humanitarian law (IHL) contains many provisions relevant to protecting internally displaced persons as part of the civilian population. They are mainly to be found in the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention and the 1977 Additional Protocols I (AP I) and II.

Against this background, given the strong condemnation from the UN and recent opinions of the International Court of Justice, and taking into account Article 21(2) of the Treaty on European Union, will the Commission:

1. ensure that the parties involved in the conflict uphold their obligations under IHL, in particular Article 51 of AP I on the protection of the civilian population against indiscriminate attacks during military operations?
2. review Israel’s compliance with Article 2 of the Association Agreement¹, if the facts are proven, and subsequently trigger Article 75 thereof?

Supporter²

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¹ Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, OJ L 147, 21.6.2000, p. 3.

² This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Giuseppe Lupu (S&D)