

Question for written answer E-008304/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Imprisonment of political opponents in Venezuela: the case of Leopoldo López

Last week the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Raad al Hussein, called on the government of Venezuela for the immediate release of the opposition leader Leopoldo López and urged 'democratic countries' to do likewise 'soon'.

Human Rights Watch has endorsed this appeal and called for the release of all the politicians and protestors who are arbitrarily detained in Venezuela. According to information from the United Nations Human Rights Office, the number of those being held amounts to 69, who were arrested in the course of public protests that took place during various months in that country.

In light of the foregoing, the following questions arise:

1. What is the EU's position on the deteriorating human rights situation in Venezuela?
2. Has the VP/HR taken any diplomatic steps to seek the release of Leopoldo López and the other opponents being held?
3. Will the VP/HR publicly endorse the appeal made by Zeid Raad al Hussein?