

**Question for written answer E-010534/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights violations in Venezuela and harassment of the political opposition

This year has seen a considerable increase in human rights violations, restrictions of political liberties and harassment of the political opposition in Venezuela. Over 40 Venezuelans have been assassinated. Hundreds of students were injured and detained after February's peaceful demonstrations. The media and Internet are censored; some periodicals and audio-visual media are hounded relentlessly. There is systematic political and judicial persecution of the democratic opposition. The latest example is the charge brought by the Public Prosecutor's Office against María Corina Machado for conspiracy, in an alleged plot to kill President Nicolás Maduro.

Therefore my questions to the Vice President/High Representative are as follows:

1. Has she made arrangements to act on the resolution passed by the European Parliament (2014/2600(RSP)) and despatch an ad hoc delegation to Venezuela to assess the situation?
2. What action is she planning to take to call for the release of the political prisoners and for cessation of the harassment of the opposition, exemplified by the case of María Corina Machado?
3. Is she going to urge the Venezuelan authorities to rejoin the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights?