

Question for written answer E-010888/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Repression of Cuba's Ladies in White

On 9 December 2014 members of the dissident Cuban Ladies in White group and other activists were arrested in Havana before the start of their traditional International Human Rights Day march.

The EU Guidelines on Freedom of Expression adopted by the Council in May 2014 specify that the first priority area of action is that of combating violence, persecution, harassment and intimidation of individuals because of their exercise of the right to freedom of expression, and combating impunity for such crimes.

1. Could the Commission indicate whether it has established any official contact with the Ladies in White, who are recipients of the European Parliament Sakharov Prize, and other opponents of the regime who are subject to persecution, to convey to them the solidarity of the European institutions?
2. How specifically in this particular case is the EEAS going to give effect to the guideline stating that the EU must publicly condemn acts of serious violence or intimidation against any individual for exercising his or her right to freedom of opinion and expression?
3. Has the High Representative indicated to Christian Leffler, as she promised she would in the hearing before the European Parliament, that no progress can be made in the talks with Cuba unless there is a clear commitment on the part of the Cuban authorities to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?