

**Question for written answer E-001929/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Investigation into alleged human rights violations committed during the civil war in Sri Lanka

According to UN estimates, the civil war that set the Sri Lankan army against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam caused more than 70 000 deaths. Between 2012 and 2014, the EU voted in favour of three UN resolutions which demanded a credible and independent investigation into war crimes committed by both sides, in order to hold any perpetrators accountable and lay the foundations for reconciliation.

Since around 300 000 military personnel were deployed to the territories where the Tamil minority lives in 2009, there have been accusations of compulsory land acquisitions by the State, as well as threats to the local population.

Last January, Sri Lanka elected a new President, Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Health in the previous Government. In the face of this democratic change:

1. Will the European Union resume its efforts, in conjunction with the UN, to persuade the new Government to accept an independent investigation into alleged human rights violations and war crimes?
2. Will the EU endeavour to investigate the intimidation to which the Tamils are allegedly subjected from the armed forces, as well as the alleged compulsory acquisitions of private land?