

**Question for written answer E-002230/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Football violence in Egypt

On 8 February 2015, a stampede at a Cairo football stadium resulted in the death of 22 fans.

According to reports, the majority of the deaths were caused by suffocation during the stampede, which occurred after police used tear gas and shotgun pellets to disperse fans attempting to force their way into the stadium.

The incident is the worst case of football violence Egypt has seen since the killing of 74 fans in a riot at a match in Port Said in February 2012. Hard-core football fans, known as the 'Ultras', have traditionally played a major role in street protests in Egypt, and were a key factor in the 2011 and 2013 uprisings that led to the overthrow of former presidents Hosni Mubarak and Mohammed Morsi.

Egyptian authorities may contain violence for now, but in the longer term, incidents of perceived or actual police brutality against football fans could affect wider political stability by sparking street protests.

1. Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of the incidents in Cairo that resulted in the death of 22 fans?
2. Is the Vice-President / High Representative in contact with the Egyptian authorities?
3. What is the opinion of the Vice-President / High Representative on the football violence in Egypt?