

Question for written answer E-003751/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Violations of human rights in El Aaiún, Western Sahara

On 8 February this year Mohamed Lamin Haidala, a young Saharawi man, died as a result of a brutal attack by a group of Moroccan settlers in El Aaiún. Instead of taking him to a hospital, the Moroccan police arrested him and took him to a police station, while letting his attackers go. He was refused medical care in various hospitals. He was buried on 22 February without his family's consent.

On 16 February last, Lalla El Moussaoui, a Saharawi woman who was five months pregnant, was kidnapped in El Aaiún by Moroccan security forces, then savagely tortured and left unconscious and at death's door on the outskirts of the town, as a result of which she lost her baby.

These cases are clear evidence that the situation requires that MINURSO – the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara – be given powers as a matter of urgency to monitor respect for human rights and investigate any abuses.

1. Does the VP/HR intend to ask the Moroccan Government to explain the death of Lamin Haidala and the kidnap of Lalla El Moussaoui?
2. Will the EU institutions support giving MINURSO powers to ensure compliance with international law and human rights in the Western Sahara?