

**Question for written answer E-005804/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Marc Tarabella (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Child soldiers in South Sudan

Since the start of the civil war which has been tearing South Sudan apart, an estimated 12 000 children have been forcibly enlisted into South Sudanese militia groups. On the rebel side, this practice is not new. It has now been shown for the first time, however, that government forces are also using child soldiers.

What is more, the two sides are making no effort to honour the promises they gave during the peace negotiations in Addis Ababa and, ignored by the international community, are continuing to commit crimes against humanity.

1. Does the European External Action Service intend to publicly condemn the inhuman practice, employed by both the rebels and the Government of South Sudan, of using child soldiers?
2. Will it work to bring about a resumption of the peace negotiations and hold the parties to their promises?