

**Question for written answer E-007483/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Sahrawi refugee camp in Tindouf

The situation in Western Sahara remains deadlocked. The Sahrawi people have been waiting for over thirty years for compliance with the United Nations promise to call a referendum on the independence of the territory, which was invaded by Morocco in 1975.

Because of the repression carried out by the Moroccan army, much of the Sahrawi population have had to take refuge in neighbouring countries. Today, it is estimated that 175 000 of them are in Tindouf refugee camp, where they have survived in highly precarious conditions for 40 years now.

The Commission has stepped up its efforts to monitor and follow up the humanitarian aid sent to Sahrawi refugees. ECHO and other UN agencies (UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF) confirm that the arrival of humanitarian aid and its distribution to those who need it is carried out in a transparent manner, with the full support of Sahrawi institutions. Various appeals from international organisations to urgently increase aid to Sahrawi refugees demonstrate that we are on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe if no additional contributions from donors are forthcoming, in particular from the Commission.

I would like to ask the Vice-President/High Representative for her assessment of the situation, and if she is willing to provide this additional contribution.