

**Question for written answer E-008261/2015/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL) and Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Violence and torture during the demonstration of 17 May 2015 in Vitoria-Gasteiz

During peaceful demonstrations held in the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz on 17 May 2015, the police attempted to disperse the demonstration using violence.

Of the numerous images of the security forces assaulting demonstrators, there are some available, as can be seen in this video<sup>1</sup>, that show clear signs of disproportionate violence and torture, including already-subdued demonstrators being punched and kicked, and at least one case of choking.

Such practices are banned under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The European Court of Human Rights has handed down as many as seven judgments criticising the Spanish Government's lack of interest in investigating torture amongst its security forces, repeatedly breaching Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Will the Commission consider in this case the EU Framework of 11 March 2014 safeguarding the rule of law?

Is the Commission aware of this situation, which lowers human-rights standards in the EU as a whole?

Will it be taking action against this violation of EU law by the Spanish Government?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eitb.eus/es/noticias/politica/detalle/3217950/muro-popular-gasteiz--detenidos-tres-jovenes-condenados/>