

Question for written answer E-001232/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Massacre in Cizre

A group of MEPs recently returned from a visit to Syrian refugee camps in Turkey and reported that living conditions there were unacceptable. The EU, meanwhile, recently approved a financial package for Turkey worth EUR 3 billion to help the country tighten controls on Europe's borders while continuing to take in refugees. However, we are sending refugees to a country where scant regard is given to human rights, as demonstrated once again by the massacre carried out in the town of Cizre on Monday, 8 February 2016, which needs to be investigated by international legal bodies. Kurdish civilians are being systematically attacked, imprisoned and killed as the Turkish Government continues to act with total impunity. Government-imposed curfews are still in force in a number of southern districts, towns and cities: Diyarbakır; Dargeçit and Nusaybin in Mardin Province; and Cizre and Silopi in Şırnak Province.

What is the VP/HR's view of the fact that a key ally such as Turkey sanctions military and police violence against civil society?

Will the EU intervene in the conflict in some way, or will it allow the refugee crisis to draw a veil over Ankara's 'war crimes' against its own people?

Will the EU call for an independent inquiry into the basement massacre in Cizre?