

**Question for written answer E-002157/2016  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)  
Rule 130  
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)**

Subject: VP/HR - Persecution of young Communists from Serbia

An ever increasing number of young Communists from Serbia – members of the Union of Young Communists of Yugoslavia (SKOJ) and of the New Communist Party of Yugoslavia (NKPJ) – are being persecuted.

On 23 February 2016, at a lecture by M. Davenport, Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia, at a university in Belgrade, two SKOJ members criticised the EU and the Serbian government's plans to adapt education in the country to euro-unifying guidelines. Security officers violently handed the two members over to the police, who arrested them.

On 11 February 2016, at an event on 'US foreign policy and the role of the US in international relations', NKPJ and SKOJ members appeared wearing t-shirts emblazoned with 'USA OUT' and shouting slogans against NATO crime in Yugoslavia and the thousands of deaths it has caused. The security officers hit them and handed them over to police.

SKOJ members have also been attacked by fascist gangs such as 'Serbian Action'. The target in one of those attacks was Aleksandar Denic, First Secretary of SKOJ, who was arrested and brought to trial for defending himself.

What is the position of the Commission on state terrorism and repression, on anti-Communist persecution of SKOJ officials, and on the request for free and unobstructed mass political action by Communists and the working class and grassroots movement?