

**Question for written answer E-004514/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Violence against fFemale aActivists in Sudan

In Sudan, state officials often intimidate citizens to discourage them from criticising the government or threatening social convention.

Female advocates of human rights are especially targeted for abuse by state security forces. Women have reported arrests, beatings, threats and sexual violence in response to political activity.

These instances, documented by Human Rights Watch, have been ignored by the Sudanese government.

Is the VP/HR aware of state abuse against female activists in Sudan?

How can the EU work with Sudan to eliminate physical threats and legal barriers to female participation in political life?