

**Question for written answer E-008352/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Congo

From 2002 to 2006 Gédéon led a militia that committed numerous atrocities in an area of central Katanga that soon became known as the 'triangle of death.' This week the warlord Gédéon Kyungu Mutanga surrendered in southern Democratic Republic of Congo with about 100 of his fighters. Instead of arresting him, local officials in the provincial capital of Lubumbashi gave Gédéon a celebratory welcome. In the past, the Congolese government has given amnesties to former warlords and 'rewarded' them with senior positions in the Congolese army, effectively perpetuating the cycle of impunity and abuse. If this happens, the surrender of one of Congo's most brutal warlords will not be an opportunity for accountability and a measure of justice for victims, but will lead instead to more atrocities.

Is the VP/HR considering holding talks with the Congolese authorities in order to ensure that Gédéon is returned to prison, ideally in a high-security prison outside of Katanga so as to minimise the risk of escape, and to encourage them to open judicial proceedings regarding the alleged crimes committed since Gédéon's escape in 2011?