

**Question for written answer E-000926/2017  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)  
Rule 130  
Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Mass executions at Saydnaya prison

According to Amnesty International reports, mass executions and hangings have taken place at Saydnaya prison in Syria. It is estimated in the reports that somewhere between 5 000 and 13 000 people were executed there between September 2011 and December 2015<sup>1</sup>.

Amnesty's research refers to the whole process, including the transport of the victims' bodies to a military hospital in Damascus and then to mass graves located on military land. In the investigation it is recorded that between 20 and 50 people were executed every week in absolute secrecy. Before being executed, the detainees were brought before military courts for trials which lasted from one to three minutes.

Amnesty International writes in the report that it attempted to make contact with the Syrian authorities about the allegations but received no response.

Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of these reports? Has she requested explanations from the Syrian authorities? If so, have they been confirmed?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde24/5415/2017/en>