

**Question for written answer E-004031/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Armenia - death threats against rights defender

The director of Armenia's leading human rights organisation, Artur Sakunts, is facing death threats over a post he wrote on Facebook criticising the Armenian government. Sakunts was alarmed at how specific the most recent threat was. It was worded as follows: 'Sakunts, I'll kill you ... [traitors] like you must have their heads [cut] off. Wait for me any moment. I am not one who shoots from the back; I'll shoot from the front, two to three metres, with a 9 mm calibre bullet. Wait for me, Sakunts'. He reported the threat to the local authorities, but no action was taken.

No-one should receive death threats for stating their opinions on a social media platform. Sakunts deserves protection and the local police in Armenia are ignoring the issue.

1. Can the VP/HR offer immunity to Artur Sakunts?
2. What actions can the EU take to protect Artur Sakunts and other activists who are vocal about their opinions, in non-repressive countries like Armenia?