

Question for written answer E-007932/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Continued use of torture at Guantanamo Bay

According to a press release issued by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, Nils Melzer, on Wednesday, 13 December 2017, enhanced interrogation techniques are still being used at Guantanamo Bay despite their having been banned by the US Government in 2008. Melzer stated that one detainee in particular who stands accused of being involved in the 9/11 attacks, Ammar Al-Baluchi, is still undergoing torture in the form of 'constant sleep deprivation'.

I visited Guantanamo Bay in December 2014 with a parliamentary delegation. A few days later, a report by the US Senate exposed the CIA's use of interrogation techniques, including torture, during the war on terror.

In my report following that visit, I emphasised the need for the EU and US to work together to close Guantanamo Bay and transfer the prisoners elsewhere.

Given that 41 detainees are still being held in the prison, what action does the High Representative intend to take in response to the allegations that the US has violated the Convention against Torture?