

Question for written answer E-001816/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Wajid Khan (S&D) and Clare Moody (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights violations in the Chittagong Hills Tracts (CHT)

On 22 January in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region in Bangladesh two teenage sisters were subjected to sexual violence and rape by members of the Bangladeshi security forces and were then taken into custody by security forces. The family continue to face threats from the security forces, and journalists and human rights activists have been prevented from investigating further. Rights groups and civilians have staged protests in Bangladesh to demand justice for the girls belonging to the Marma ethnic minority group.

This is not an isolated incident. Despite the fighting formally ending in 1997 with the signing of the CHT Peace Accord, tensions remain on issues surrounding land ownership, control of local resources and human rights.

- Have the EEAS / VP-HR raised the issue with the authorities of Bangladesh, asking them to investigate this incident and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice? What has been done to prevent any recurrence of attacks and ensure protection of members of indigenous peoples?
- What have the EEAS / VP-HR done to ensure the full implementation of the Peace Accord?
- What assistance has the EU been providing to the vulnerable indigenous community of the CHT region, and especially women?