

Question for written answer E-004504/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Myanmar

On 3 September Reuters reported that two Burmese reporters had been sentenced to seven years in prison by a Myanmar court for having violated the 'Official Secrets Act' while documenting the death of a group of Rohingya at the hands of the army. Their sentencing following judicial proceedings in which the minimum guarantees were not assured highlights the problems facing Myanmar's fledgling democracy in connection with establishing the rule of law and preventing human rights violations.

Since in its relations with Myanmar, the EU has allocated that country EUR 688 million for the period 2014-2020 – EUR 103 million for peace-building measures and EUR 96 for establishing the rule of law – could the VP/HR state:

- 1) What steps are being envisaged to protect ethnic minorities in Myanmar?
- 2) Whether there are plans to increase the humanitarian aid budget for refugee support in Rakhine state?
- 3) What measures are being contemplated to consolidate democracy, the rule of law and good governance in Myanmar?