

**Question for written answer P-003834/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Most recent attacks against civilians in Syria

The conflict in Syria, which has caused more than 250 000 deaths and driven 11 million people from their homes in five years, would appear to be a long way from the peaceful resolution for which the EU should be pushing.

Since the partial cease-fire brokered by the USA and Russia in late February, indiscriminate attacks on civilians from various sides have continued. The airstrikes on the Al Quds hospital in Aleppo, which left 27 dead, and the refugee camp in Idlib, which killed at least 28, are atrocities that call for immediate and determined action from the international community to put a swift end to hostilities.

The absence of any response from the EU other than a formal condemnation of these war crimes betrays an unwillingness and/or inability to act that does nothing to achieve a peace agreement.

Does the VP/HR believe that the EU's cursory response to these crimes is evidence of a desire to stand idly by while a conflict involving us – albeit indirectly – continues to rage?

Does the EU intend to help put in place arrangements for reporting and prosecuting war crimes committed by the parties to the conflict?