

Question for written answer P-001288/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Johannes Cornelis van Baalen (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Arrest of Senator Leila de Lima in the Philippines

1. Is the VP/HR aware that on 24 February 2017 Senator Leila de Lima was arrested in retaliation for her criticism of the extra-judicial killings sanctioned by President Rodrigo Duterte as part of his so-called 'war on drugs'?
2. How will the VP/HR ensure the right to a fair and independent trial for Senator Leila de Lima, without being impeded in its efforts by any politically motivated interference from the presidential office or even from President Duterte himself?
3. In the light of the rapid deterioration of the Philippines' democratic institutions, what steps will the VP/HR take to protect fundamental human rights and political freedoms in the country?