

Question for written answer P-002692/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Marc Tarabella (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Concentration camps for homosexuals in Chechnya

In Chechnya, secret prisons inspired by concentration camps are being used to torture and kill Russian homosexuals.

This information, which was uncovered by the Russian opposition newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, and verified by several NGOs, reminds us of the darkest times in our history. According to this information, a crackdown against homosexuals began at the end of March. 'Secret prisons' where homosexuals are tortured and killed. The prisoners are allegedly forced to disclose the identities of other homosexuals in a country where revealing one's sexual orientation can result in a death sentence.

1. What is the Commission's response to this? Will it echo our condemnation of these extremely serious crimes?
2. What diplomatic measures will the High Representative take to urge the authorities to halt these atrocities?
3. Does she also wish to contact the aforementioned NGOs and journalists who have been repudiated since the article was published?