

**Question for written answer E-000290/2012
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 117
Gianluca Susta (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - End of the civil war in Sri Lanka: emergency legislation and the safeguarding of human rights

The civil war which has ravaged Sri Lanka since 1983 has caused many deaths and much suffering on both sides, particularly among civilians. The cease-fire agreement reached in 2002 was unilaterally withdrawn by the nationalist government in 2008.

In the light of the conclusions of the recent UN report on crimes committed in the final stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka;

1. Can the Vice-President/High Representative state what action the EU has taken to date or intends to take with the aim of forcing the Sri Lankan Government to repeal the discriminatory emergency legislation which restricts civil and political rights, measures which are still in force despite the unilateral truce declared by the Tamil Tigers and the de facto ending of the civil war?
2. What steps does she plan to take in order to guarantee full respect for human rights in Sri Lanka and the restoration of the civil and political rights of the Tamil population and all minorities in Sri Lanka, who cannot be the only people to bear the consequences of the conflict?
3. What steps does she plan to take to secure the release of all political prisoners who have been detained without charge and denied due process and legal safeguards?
4. What steps she plans to take to force the Sri Lankan Government to halt the continuing acts of violence against defenceless people, such as those committed by the so-called 'grease devils', who attack villages in the north of the country, terrorising civilians?
5. What steps she plans to take, also internationally, in order to ensure that full light is shed on events in the final stages of the civil war?