

**Question for written answer E-004326/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Sophocles Sophocleous (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Execution of hostages in Nigeria

On 18 February 2013, armed terrorists attacked a construction company in Nigeria, abducting seven foreign workers from Greece, the UK, Italy and Lebanon, and killing the company's security guard.

The Foreign Ministries of the seven hostages' respective countries immediately established a special team of experts to find them. The Ansar al-Muslimeen group, widely known as Ansaru, which took responsibility for the abduction of the employees, neither communicated nor expressed demands concerning the release of the hostages.

On 9 March, the Ansaru terrorist organisation released photographs of a number of dead bodies, and announced, through an audiovisual release, that it had executed the seven hostages in retaliation for moves by the Nigerian and British authorities to free them.

These are cold-blooded murders, and they have been condemned not only by the European Union, but also by all international organisations.

- What measures does the Vice President/ High Representative intend to take to investigate the abduction and murder of the seven workers?
- How will the European Union respond to this tragic event?
- Will it take specific actions in cooperation with the Foreign Ministries of the UK, Greece and Italy?