

**Question for written answer E-008289/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 117
Jill Evans (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - Situation in Burma

Despite some positive reform in Burma such as the welcoming of exiles and the release of nearly 400 political prisoners, there is still cause for concern about the continuation of serious human rights violations across the country. Hundreds of political prisoners remain behind bars and the authorities have failed to identify and hold to account past abusers.

The Rohingya Muslims are not considered as Burmese citizens and therefore face a barrier resisting their access to education and healthcare. State security forces have taken part in abuses against the Rohingya. There is strong implication that women are being held at the Burmese army base as sex slaves.

It has been revealed that the Swedish-made weapons that are used by the Burmese army were originally sold to the Indian Government.

The recent decision by the European Union to lift targeted sanctions on Burma is unlikely to encourage improvement of the current human rights situation and a further agenda will be needed to promote this.

- Does the Vice-President / High Representative condemn the use of sex slaves by the Burmese Army?
- Does the Vice-President / High Representative agree that action must be taken against the discrimination shown towards the Rohingya Muslims, not only by citizens but also by the Burmese authorities?
- What steps will the Vice-President / High Representative take to ensure that the Burmese authorities respect the citizens' human rights and improve the current situation of discrimination and illegality?