

**Question for written answer E-008942/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 117
Sajjad Karim (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Killing of four protestors by Indian security forces in Kashmir

Last week Indian government forces killed four Kashmiri villagers and injured dozens more by opening fire on crowds protesting against the alleged desecration of the Qur'an by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

The heavy-handed tactics of the BSF, who ignited the recent violence by beating students and tearing up several copies of the Qur'an at an Islamic school in Dharam on 17 July 2013, has again heightened tension in the area.

Against the backdrop of reported systematic human rights abuses by the Indian government forces against Kashmiris, and with the shocking discovery in Indian-administered Kashmir of 40 unmarked graves containing 2000 bodies in 2011, this recent episode gives rise to the following questions:

1. Has the Vice-President / High Representative publicly condemned this week's shooting?
2. If so, what assurances has the Vice-President / High Representative received that India will conduct a transparent and fair inquiry into the shootings?
3. With the EU-India Free Trade Agreement still currently being negotiated, what further political leverage or measures will the EU use to urge India to respect the human rights of the people of Kashmir?