

Question for written answer E-003099/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Michał Tomasz Kamiński (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Grave human rights situation in Kazakhstan

International human rights organisations are expressing alarm at the grave situation in Kazakhstan with regard to torture and the use of force by police and security forces in the country. They are also concerned about sham trials taking place, with sentences being handed down on the basis of the accused being forced to make false confessions, and having been held in extremely difficult conditions and abused by the law enforcement authorities. Contrary to statements made by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Kazakh authorities are doing nothing to stop the security services using violence in the course of their duties, and those responsible for acts of violence are not being prosecuted properly.

How will the High Representative react to this grave situation?

Can the EU take steps with a view to ensuring that President Nazarbayev keeps to his word with regard to abandoning the use of torture?

Can the EU set the ball rolling with a view to the setting-up of an international commission to establish what conditions are really like in Kazakhstan's prisons?