

Question for written answer E-000734/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Petition seeking investigation of human rights infringements in West Papua

In West Papua, crackdowns by the security forces on dissidents and on exercise of the freedom of expression and assembly are recurrent events, not infrequently accompanied by acts of violence and arbitrary arrests. Very recently, public concern reached such levels that a petition to the UN mobilised the support of 1.8 million signatories, equal to two-thirds of the population. The petitioners are calling on the UN to send a fact-finding mission to investigate persistent allegations of human rights infringements in the provinces of Papua and West Papua. While the Indonesian authorities have promptly expressed a willingness to cooperate and to schedule a date for the mission, the fact remains that they have a record of broken promises when it comes to allowing in foreign observers, be they official delegations, journalists or activists from outside the country.

Given the prominent role of civil society under the Cooperation and Partnership Agreement between the EU and Indonesia and the Human Rights Dialogue established in 2010, what representations will the EU make to the Indonesian authorities with a view to facilitating this important UN mission?