

Question for written answer E-000954/2019

to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Indiscriminate killing of kulbars on the Iraq-Iran border

According to Amnesty International's 2017-2018 Annual Report on Iran, Iran's border guards have continued to unlawfully shoot and kill, with full impunity, scores of unarmed Kurdish men known as kulbars who work as cross-border porters between Iraqi and Iranian Kurdistan¹.

This issue was also reported in the 2016 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Special Rapporteur stated that indiscriminate killings of kulbars (border couriers) were reported in 2015 and that these actions violated Iran's domestic laws and international obligations².

In 2018 alone, 71 kulbars and tradesmen were killed and 160 others wounded by Iranian border guards³.

How does the Commission intend to enforce the EU's principles regarding human rights in the negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran?

Will the Commission take advantage of the bilateral meetings to put pressure on Iran to stop these killings?

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/iran/report-iran>

² <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/105/97/PDF/G1610597.pdf?OpenElement>

³ <https://hengaw.net/en/news/a-kolbar-was-killed-by-direct-firing-of-irans-armed-forces-at-the-urmiabordert>