

**Question for written answer E-003196/2019/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Leopoldo López Gil (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Defending human rights and liberty in Venezuela

We have recently been made aware through media reports of a new and serious attack on human rights in Venezuela.

A horrifying video recorded at the Anaco detention centre shows prisoners lying naked face down on the ground to be used as an arena for cock fighting. This is wholly unacceptable.

The violation of freedom and human rights by the dictator Maduro knows no bounds; this was illustrated by the report submitted in July by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet. This report highlights the increase in the number of extrajudicial executions carried out by the Special Actions Force (FAES), which in 2018 claimed 5 287 lives.

We cannot allow Venezuelans to live in fear of persecution and torture.

The Union should lead the support for a transition to democracy and freedom in Venezuela.

We must act in defence of democracy and human rights.

In light of these terrible acts,

1. Does the Vice-President / High Representative condemn this new attack on human rights in Venezuela?
2. How does the Vice-President / High Representative intend to react and what action does it intend to take in response to these atrocious infringements of liberties?