

**Question for written answer E-003736/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Inquiry into war crimes committed during recent fighting in Syria

Reports have appeared in the Italian media of videos, photos and pictures being posted on the Internet of torture by, it is said, Turkish soldiers backed by jihadi militia.

According to these reports, some Kurdish fighters were murdered, beheaded or subjected to other barbaric atrocities during the Turkish army's recent invasion of north-east Syria and its siege of some border towns.

The US Secretary for Defence Mark T. Esper is reported as saying 'It's a terrible situation' and that the US strongly condemned certain actions by the regular Turkish army and those fighting under its command. The US Ambassador to NATO, Kay Bailey Hutchinson, has called on the alliance to open an inquiry into possible 'war crimes' committed by Turkey in Syria.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that an independent inquiry should be opened to establish whether crimes were committed against the Kurds during the recent conflict in Syria?
2. Does it believe NATO should be asked to look into opening an inquiry?