

Question for written answer E-005458/2020

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Quest for the truth regarding crimes against humanity committed in 1988 in Iran

In the summer of 1988, the ruling ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered the massacre of over 30 thousand political prisoners. To date, nothing has been done by the international community to shed light on the tragedy and obtain justice for the thousands of students and political activists brutally killed and then buried in numerous mass graves scattered throughout the country.

The story took a further alarming twist with the subsequent assassination in Geneva of Ambassador Rajavi, who was endeavouring to shed light on these events, which to this day remain unresolved. Indeed, Ayatollah Montazeri intimated that those responsible still held important Iranian establishment posts.

To date, the circumstances surrounding the 1988 executions have not been elucidated owing to the immunity enjoyed by those responsible and the persistence of the Iranian regime in denying that they actually took place.

In view of this:

1. Can the Vice-President / High Representative say what action he will take to shed light on these crimes against humanity in order to bring justice and truth to the families of the victims?
2. Will he impose sanctions on Iran in line with based on the measures already taken by the United States?
3. Is he aware of plans by the Iranian Government to destroy the mass graves located in the country in order to remove once and for all any evidence that the killings actually took place?