

Question for written answer E-001191/2021

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: Request for comments on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Italian Ambassador, a member of the Carabinieri police and the driver of a convoy part of the UN MONUSCO operation have been tragically killed.

According to initial reconstructions, the UN had allegedly assured the Italian Embassy that the scene of the attack in question was safe.

The UN has been present in the Democratic Republic of Congo for twenty years, without any noticeable peace having been achieved in the area.

In December 2019 the European Council undertook (see Conclusions 14462/19) to support the efforts of the Congolese authorities, together with MONUSCO, stating that this mission played a crucial role in the path towards peace, security and the rule of law.

Lastly, some press agencies have confirmed that the Head of the EU Delegation to the Democratic Republic of Congo was also present in the region in the days before the attack.

In the light of the above, can the Vice-President/High Representative say:

1. whether he believes that the MONUSCO mission is best placed to achieve the desired results;
2. whether he intends to take his own measures with a view to strengthening peace and security in the area;
3. whether he intends to take any action against the Congolese Government and the UN for having failed to protect international officials?