

Question for written answer E-001737/2021/rev.1

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: Humanitarian situation in Mozambique

Islamic militants linked to IS and based in the gas-rich northern province of Mozambique, Cabo Delgado, are becoming increasingly brutal. Atrociously, civilians, sometimes including children under the age of twelve, are being decapitated with machetes.

Almost a third of the 670 000 inhabitants are already fleeing violence, looting and horrific massacres, a sevenfold increase compared to last year. Since 2017, more than 2 600 people have been killed, half of them civilians. Aid organisations such as UNHCR warn that there is a risk of famine affecting at least 1 million people in northern Mozambique.

There is an urgent need to protect the population and to investigate and punish human rights violations. If the EU takes its geopolitical role seriously, such regional crises with a potential global impact should be at the top of the EU-Africa agenda.

In view of the above:

1. Having identified the situation in Mozambique as one of the priorities of the EU-Africa agenda, what specific measures will the EU take?
2. What will the EU do in light of jihadist violence, which seeks to destabilise African societies and constitutes a push factor for migration?
3. Will the EU launch a military training mission in Mozambique to combat Islamic terrorists, as suggested by the Portuguese Minister of Defence?