

Question for written answer E-002180/2021/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: Human rights situation in Ethiopia

It is a known fact that conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia is continuing. On 4 March 2021, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights denounced possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in the region.

According to recent revelations, extrajudicial summary executions have been carried out against civilians in the region, where the executioners were wearing military uniforms bearing Ethiopian army insignia. All parties to the conflict have soiled their hands with serious war crimes, according to a number of investigations.

Taking account of the Geneva Conventions to which Ethiopia and Eritrea are parties, in addition to international humanitarian law and jus cogens in relation to war crimes, and given the failure of the UN Security Council to adopt a common position on the issue, can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy say:

1. whether, in his view, serious human rights violations have been or are being committed in the region;
2. whether and how he intends to take appropriate action, through his own diplomacy;
3. whether he considers there may be grounds for bringing the matter before the UN Security Council once again?