

Question for written answer E-003329/2022/rev.1

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

Rule 138

Marco Zanni (ID), Susanna Ceccardi (ID), Anna Bonfrisco (ID)

Subject: Alleged summary execution of Armenian prisoners of war by Azerbaijani armed forces

A number of media outlets recently released a video showing a group of captured Armenian soldiers surrounded by Azerbaijani troops, who then execute them.

If the authenticity of the video broadcast online were confirmed, the troops' act would clearly be a war crime that needs to be investigated.

In the light of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which began in 2020, of the risk of renewed escalation and open war following the latest wave of aggression by the Azerbaijani armed forces, of the importance of the human rights of prisoners of war, of adherence to the Geneva Conventions, of the already numerous Azerbaijani violations against Armenian prisoners, as already raised in a European Parliament resolution of May 2021¹, and of the previous episode when Azerbaijani forces tortured, mutilated and killed Armenian troops:

1. Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of these potential war crimes and clear human rights violations? What action can he take to help track down and prosecute any perpetrators?
2. What action will the Commission take to significantly ramp up European participation in efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia?

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2021-0277_EN.html