

**Question for written answer E-003153/2023**

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

Rule 138

**Sylvie Guillaume (S&D)**

Subject: Prisoners of war in Armenia

On 20 September 2023, it was announced that Nagorno-Karabakh would cease to exist as of January 2024. Since then, of the 120 000 Armenians who lived in Nagorno-Karabakh, more than 100 000 have fled to Armenia, proving that a policy of ethnic cleansing has been pursued.

Furthermore, current fears of new Azerbaijani offensives against Armenia are, unfortunately, well founded. Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, has refused to engage constructively to normalise relations.

A range of issues remain unresolved. One of the most urgent concerns the plight of hundreds of Armenian prisoners of war: those held since the 44-day war of 2020, whose families are still without news, and those held following the various attacks since then.

In addition, several former leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh (including Arkadi Ghukasyan, Bako Sahakyan, Davit Ishkhanyan, Ruben Vardanyan and Arayik Harutyunyan) have been arrested. No one knows what they are accused of or in what conditions they are being held. Their fate remains very uncertain.

1. What does the European Union intend to do to obtain information on prisoners of war and secure their release?
2. How will the EU ensure that Azerbaijan complies with the Geneva Convention, and how will it obtain information on the plight of the former leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh?

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