

ORAL QUESTION H-0431/08  
for Question Time at the part-session in July 2008  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Hanne Dahl  
to the Council

Subject: Political responsibility for acts of brutality committed during EU military operations

Several witnesses have testified in Sweden that the French military force which was part of the EU's operation, Artemis, in Bunia, Congo, tortured and conducted a mock execution of a prisoner. These events allegedly took place on 13 July 2003 and have been the subject of an investigation by both the Swedish and French armed forces. The various Swedish testimonies were contradictory and the French investigation concluded that no acts of brutality had been committed. These events raise numerous questions for the future, however.

If a Member State's military force on an EU operation somewhere in the world commits an act of brutality, who will take the political responsibility? If a Member State's military force is found guilty of a war crime during an EU operation, is there any possibility of barring that Member State from EU operations for a lengthy period in order to protect the good name and reputation of the Member States' military forces?

Tabled: 03.06.2008  
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