

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1560/06  
by Gitte Seeberg (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Human rights situation in Sri Lanka

On 10 June 2005 the Commission (Commissioner Mrs Ferrero-Waldner) answered a question from a Member of the European Parliament, Mr Poul Nyrup Rasmussen (P-1864/05). The question concerned the serious human rights situation in Sri Lanka, with special reference to a large number of torture cases.

In its answer, the Commission acknowledged that the human rights situation was serious. It also stated that it had consistently called on the Sri Lankan Government to respect civil liberties and renounce the use of violence.

In view of new cases of human rights violations in Sri Lanka in 2005, I as a Member of the European Parliament asked the Commissioner on 30 August 2005 to repeat this call to the Sri Lankan Government, so that more effective measures could be considered to remedy this situation, especially with regard to torture in police custody.

It is clear that no changes for the better have taken place. Cases of brutal behaviour and torture still occur frequently. Against this background I should like to ask the Commission whether there have been discussions of the human rights violations in Sri Lanka at the meetings between Commission representatives and the Sri Lankan Government. Will the Commission explain whether in future meetings it will continue these discussions and demand the immediate cessation of these serious human rights violations?