Priority question for written answer P-006618/2020
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: Unprecedented actions taken against Hungarians in Ukraine

On 30 November, coordinated law enforcement actions were taken against Hungarian organisations in Ukraine. Dozens of armed commandos from the State Security Service (SBU) occupied the apartment of László Brenzovics, president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia and former member of the Verkhovna Rada, and the offices of Hungarian party and charity foundations to conduct searches of the premises. The search warrant was based on fabricated political accusations, which violates the rights of the Hungarian minority. The aim of this security operation was to put an end to the activities of the Hungarian minority and to intimidate Hungarians in Ukraine and their leaders.

Since 2017, there has been a systematic process of minority rights violations (which started with the Education Law and the Ukrainian State Language Law), hate speech against Hungarians in the media, hate crimes, marches, provocations by nationalistic paramilitary groups and the Myrotvorets website, and finally the arson and bomb attack on the headquarters of the Hungarian Party. The list is too long to mention everything.

1. When will the Commission act and no longer remain silent about these cases, which are threatening the existence of the national minority?

2. What will the VP/HR do in order to prevent such intimidating actions from happening again?