

Priority question for written answer P-001253/2022

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

Rule 138

Stanislav Polčák (PPE)

Subject: Kidnappings of mayors of Ukrainian cities, towns and municipalities

Despite condemnation of the kidnappings of the mayors of the Ukrainian cities of Melitopol and Dniprorudne from EU officials and bodies, Russia is continuing with this practice and has placed restrictions on the freedom of more than a dozen local government officials of the embattled state. I agree with your statement that this is an attack on Ukraine's democratic institutions and an attempt to create illegitimate alternative power structures. However, in view of the systematic nature and seriousness of this phenomenon, I believe that Europe's concerns should be voiced much more strongly. The principle of self-government, which Russia is destroying by its despicable actions, is a fundamental European value that the EU must stand up for. Does the VP/HR agree with this position? What will he do to ensure that the representatives of local governments are released and that the practice of kidnapping them is stopped?