

**Priority question for written answer P-002341/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Clara Ponsatí Obiols (NI), Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI), Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI)

Subject: Police operation at the Spanish border of Melilla

On 24 June 2022, a group of migrants attempted to enter Spain through the border at the Melilla enclave¹. Some of them were pushed back by the Moroccan police once they were already on EU territory.

With the cooperation of Spanish police forces, the Moroccan police threw stones at the migrants who were climbing the fence and beat them once they had crossed the border to send them back into Moroccan territory². The operation resulted in between 23 and 37 deaths – according to different sources – and at least 57 people were injured³.

The Moroccan police refused to provide medical assistance to the migrants injured during the events⁴.

While EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ms Ylva Johansson, described ‘the events’ as ‘deeply troubling’⁵ and EU spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms Nabila Massrali, characterised them as ‘tragic’⁶, Spanish president, Mr Pedro Sánchez, congratulated the Spanish and Moroccan police for their ‘extraordinary’ work⁷.

1. Does the Commission share Mr Sanchez’s assessment that the Spanish and Moroccan police operation was appropriate?
2. Does it consider this operation to be in respect of human rights⁸?
3. Is it aware of any bilateral agreement or treaty between the EU or any EU Member State and the Kingdom of Morocco allowing the Moroccan police to operate on EU territory for the purpose of border control?

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-61934163>

² <https://www.publico.es/sociedad/agentes-marroquies-cruzaron-valla-melilla-golpearon-migrantes-suelo-espanol-devolverlos-caliente.html>

³ <https://elpais.com/espana/2022-06-26/los-testigos-del-asalto-a-la-valla-de-melilla-todo-era-sangre.html>

⁴ https://www.eldiario.es/desalambre/video-migrantes-heridos-agotados-tirados-lado-marroqui-frontera-salto-valla-melilla_1_9118349.html

⁵ https://twitter.com/YlvaJohansson/status/1541112680609730561?t=Duf6Yrhq-_DzU4OutSNwFg&s=09

⁶ <https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/brusselles-evita-de-demanar-una-investigacio-sobre-la-mort-de-migrants-a-la-tanca-de-melilla/>

⁷ <https://www.publico.es/sociedad/decenas-personas-saltan-valla-melilla-primer-final-crisis-marruecos.html>

⁸ https://lexpency.es/eu/32016R0399/ART_4/