

Priority question for written answer P-001310/2023
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy
Rule 138
Demetris Papadakis (S&D)

Subject: Grief and anger about the extradition of Kurdish political refugee Kenan Ayas

Cyprus has agreed to Germany's request for the extradition of Kenan Ayas, a Kurd who was recognised as a political refugee in 2011, with the probable outcome that he will be imprisoned in Turkey's dungeons. This decision has prompted anger and grief in every person with democratic values.

The fact that Turkey presents all Kurds who defend their human and civil rights as 'terrorists' means that the Kurdish activist risks immediate imprisonment if he enters the country. That will make Cyprus complicit in an egregious human rights violation. Under no circumstances should Cyprus, which is still at the receiving end of permanent aggression and violations of the human rights of its people, comply with Turkey's demands in order to placate any third parties. Moreover, the request to extradite Mr Ayas comes at a time Germany has created a serious negative precedent in occupied Cyprus by supplying the occupying army with Leopard tanks.

We would stress that there are already thousands of opponents of the Erdoğan regime in Turkish prisons, including Selahattin Demirtaş, leader of the pro-Kurdish HDP party.

On the basis of this, can the Vice-President / High Representative say:

In view of the consequences, does the EU plan to take action to prevent the extradition of Kenan Ayas to Turkey?

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