

**Question for written answer E-014470/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 117
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Sexual violence in Burma

In 2011, Burma embarked on a process of political and economic reform. However, women's and human rights organisations have documented an increase in the use of rape by government forces over the same period in Shan State, Kachin State and Rakhine State.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma has drawn attention in his recent reports to ongoing sexual violence in the country. The United Nations Human Rights Council resolution on Burma also called for an end to 'rape and other forms of sexual violence'.

I noted the Vice-President / High Representative's use of the recent EU-Myanmar Task Force meeting in November 2013 to continue calls for human rights to be safeguarded in Burma. However, what specific steps and initiatives are being taken and supported by the EU within the country to help bring about an end to sexual violence?