

Priority question for written answer P-001470/2024
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 144
Brigitte van den Berg (Renew)

Subject: Violence against student protesters in Bangladesh

There are disturbing news reports about violent confrontations in Bangladesh, including about excessive violence used by security forces following the outbreak of student-led protests against the government. At least 150 people have been killed¹. The current government and police units have a poor record on democracy and human rights. For example, the Rapid Action Battalion has been on the US sanctions list since 2021². In the light of the above:

1. How will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) respond to this situation?
2. In what way does the EU intend to contribute to the immediate de-escalation of violence?
3. Is the VP/HR considering imposing (trade) sanctions against Bangladesh in order to protect human rights and democracy?

Submitted: 1.8.2024

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4ng5v03gd4o>.

² <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0526>.