

**Question for written answer E-009197/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - The case of Souad Al-Shammary in Saudi Arabia

On 28 October 2014, Souad Al-Shammary was arrested by the Saudi Arabian authorities after being summoned to a hearing against her at the Investigation Body and Public Attorney Building in Jeddah. The investigation was initiated after a number of clergymen and religious figures filed an accusation against her of 'insulting Islam'. The controversy that led to her arrest stems from a tweet. The prosecutor has charged her with numerous offences including calling for women's liberation, rebellion and demanding the separation of society from religion. Al-Shammary is the co-founder of the Saudi Liberal Network¹ and a prominent campaigner for women's rights.

1. Is the VP/HR aware of the arrest of Souad Al-Shammary, and if so, what is her assessment of it?
2. What has the VP/HR and/or the EEAS done to respond to this case, and how do they intend to move forward to push for the immediate and unconditional release of Souad Al-Shammary?
3. What action has the VP/HR and/or the EEAS taken to address the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia, as set out and recommended in European Parliament Resolution P7_TA(2014)0207, adopted on 11 March 2014?

¹ Together with Raif Badawi, who is serving a 10-year prison sentence; see Written Question submitted on 30 September 2014.