

Question for written answer E-000407/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights violations in Iran

On 4 November 2014 I submitted a question about the sentence of death by hanging, delivered against the young Iranian woman, Reyhaneh Jabbari. Since then, there have been many reports of executions by hanging (14 on new year's day 2015, of whom four were women), and of Iranian citizens having limbs amputated. Many of these punishments have been for offences such as 'moharebeh' (waging war against God) or political issues. As the United Nations has repeatedly pointed out (most recently on 18 December 2014, in Resolution A/RES/69/190), these sentences are contrary to international law.

These sentences show that there has been no improvement in the human rights situation in Iran under the Rouhani Government.

1. Does the Commission hold up-to-date figures on how many people have been executed in Iran for political and/or religious reasons?
2. What pressure is the EU bringing to bear on the Iranian Government to fulfil its obligations to protect human rights?
3. Is action being coordinated between the international authorities, such as those belonging to the United Nations, and the bodies of the EU Member States with responsibilities for foreign affairs?