

Question for written answer E-000621/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL) and Ángela Vallina (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in Saudi Arabia

Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, co-founder of the Free Saudi Liberals website (now banned by the Saudi Arabian government), was arrested in 2012. After being found guilty of cyber crimes and insulting Islam, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1 000 lashes in weekly floggings of 50 lashes. Badawi was also ordered to pay a fine of the equivalent of EUR 210 000.

1. Does the High Representative have further information on this case?
2. Does the High Representative consider that the sentence imposed on Badawi is in any way justified?
3. Does the High Representative propose to call for sanctions against Saudi Arabia for systematically violating human rights?