

Question for written answer E-000785/2015/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - Application for political asylum by Hassana Alia

Hassana Alia is a Sahwari activist arrested and charged by the Moroccan authorities following the dismantling of the Gdeim Izik camp. He was detained and tried but subsequently released. In February 2013, Alia was convicted by a Moroccan military tribunal while he was in the Basque Country, where he is living with a family and learning Spanish. He was given a sentence of life imprisonment, handed down in absentia by the Moroccan authorities, who considered that he had absconded by being in Spain. Yet Alia had no problem obtaining a visa to travel to Spain in 2011.

Prominent international lawyers say the verdict is unsafe because the trial failed to comply with international legal safeguards: there were no reliable witnesses and there was no evidence, in contravention of the Geneva Convention.

Hassana Alia applied for political asylum in Spain but his application was turned down on 19 January 2015. He was given 15 days to leave the country.

1. Will the High Representative raise with Morocco the issue of serious procedural shortcomings in the trial of the Gdeim Izik Sahrawi activists?