

**Question for written answer E-006322/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Detention of the Moroccan journalist Hicham Mansouri

On 30 March, the Moroccan journalist Hicham Mansouri was condemned to ten months' imprisonment by a court in his country which, following a trial riddled with irregularities, found him guilty of 'adultery'. Various media and human rights organisations have stated that Mansouri has been the victim of political reprisal for his outstanding work in favour of an independent press as a member of the Moroccan Association of Investigative Journalists. Various international organisations have reported that other journalists, singers, actors and bloggers have been persecuted recently in Morocco for criticising the Government's failure to keep the promises of democratisation it made in 2011. Mansouri, who had already been the victim of an attack which was not investigated by the police, was detained at his home while having tea with a female friend. After being assaulted by the police, he was forced to go out into the street virtually naked. He is now being held in a cell which he shares in deplorable conditions with 40 other detainees, most of them dangerous criminals.

1. Is the VP/HR going to demand the immediate release of Mansouri by the Moroccan government?
2. Does the VP/HR not believe that this detention and other breaches of freedom of expression are signs of a worrying decline in Morocco's respect for fundamental rights?