

Question for written answer E-007220/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Further arrests in Morocco and the situation in the Sahara

News came at the end of April 2015 that a Saharawi citizen and his wife – a Spanish EU citizen – had been arrested once again by the Moroccan authorities for having protested against the mistreatment and harassment of said EU citizen by the Moroccan authorities.

Their arrest comes against the backdrop of an increasingly tense climate in Western Sahara. With no progress being made towards compliance with international law, an increasing number of members of the younger generations of Saharawis are now calling for a return to arms and the start of a new conflict in what is an already highly unstable region in today's geopolitical landscape.

1. Will the Vice-President/High Representative request the release of the Saharawi citizen and the Spanish citizen who have been arrested? Will she also arbitrate the appropriate process to investigate whether the claims that an EU citizen has been harassed and mistreated are true and, if necessary, press for an end to this?
2. How does the Vice-President/High Representative view the fact that years have gone by without any progress being made on the UN resolutions on Western Sahara, and what is her assessment of possible repercussions this situation may have in the medium term?