

**Question for written answer E-007981/2015/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Repeated human rights violations in Saudi Arabia

In early 2015, Raïf Badawi, a Saudi Arabian blogger, was imprisoned and sentenced to a thousand lashes for apostasy. In his blog, Raïf Badawi was promoting freedom of expression and showed no hesitation in criticising the methods being used by his country's leaders.

Unfortunately, Mr Badawi is not the only victim of such treatment. According to Amnesty International, 40 people have been executed so far in 2015 (which is four times more than during the same period in 2014).

In addition to unjustified sentences and the use of torture, many other deplorable practices in Saudi Arabia go against international law, such as discrimination against women, violence, exploitation and slavery of male and female servants, and the death penalty.

1. Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of and informed about these repeated violations of international law and human rights in Saudi Arabia?
2. What measures is the Vice-President/High Representative planning to take to dissuade Saudi Arabia from using these practices?