

Question for written answer E-008707/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - Torture in Morocco and Western Sahara

That, in this day and age, the Moroccan Government allows torture to continue to be standard practice in Morocco and the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara is alarming. The use of inhumane treatment on detainees and suspects was banned by the 2011 Constitution but the Moroccan authorities have not adopted any measures since then that would translate their words into deeds. Reports by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan E. Méndez, and major international organisations campaigning for the total eradication of torture prove that confessions obtained through beatings, asphyxia, simulated drowning and psychological and sexual violence continue to be regarded as valid evidence in legal proceedings in Morocco.

In a reaction to the impunity enjoyed by torturers, one of these organisations has brought a law-suit in France against senior officials in Morocco's security service. Meanwhile, in Morocco, judges imposed prison sentences on Oussama Housne and Wafae Charaf, who are members of the Moroccan Human Rights Association, in reprisal for their having accused the police of kidnapping and torturing them.

What diplomatic actions will the Vice-President/High Representative take to demand that the Moroccan Government honours its constitutional and international commitments on human rights, including Article 2 of the Association Agreement with the European Union?