

Question for written answer E-009625/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Human Rights in Saudi Arabia

Last Sunday, the Supreme Court of Saudi Arabia upheld the sentence of 10 years' imprisonment and 1 000 lashes against the activist and blogger Raif Badawi, who was convicted for expressing his political ideas and was accused of insulting Islam and criticising the country's 'Moral Policy'.

The European Union has important economic, commercial and diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. However, as yet, only the European Union head of diplomacy, Federica Mogherini, has urged Saudi Arabia to suspend the corporal punishment of Mr Badawi.

1. Will the European Union investigate the possibility of applying sanctions to Saudi Arabia?
2. What specific actions will the European Union undertake in view of such breaches of human rights?