

**Question for written answer E-009993/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Charles Tannock (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Raif Badawi

In 2013, Saudi blogger Raif Badawi was sentenced to 10 years in jail and 1 000 lashes on charges of apostasy. He was accused of insulting Islam through electronic channels by founding the internet forum 'Free Saudi Liberals'. The first 50 of his lashes were administered on 9 January 2015 and the second set has been postponed more than 12 times owing to Badawi's poor health. Badawi's wife, Ensaf Haidar, and three children have fled to the Canadian province of Quebec where Badawi has been granted a selection certificate – a first step meant to speed up his immigration process. This will allow him to join his wife and three children in exile if he is released by Saudi Arabia.

1. What is the Vice President / High Representative's assessment of this situation?
2. What recent discussions has the VP/HR had with the Saudi authorities regarding Canada's offer of asylum to Badawi?