

**Question for written answer E-010749/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Confirmation by the Supreme Court of Saudi Arabia of the sentence imposed on Raif Badawi

On 7 June 2015 the Supreme Court of Saudi Arabia confirmed the sentence of 10 years' imprisonment and 1000 lashes imposed on Raif Badawi for apostasy and writing a blog insulting Islam.

Canada recently granted Raif Badawi a Quebec selection certificate [entitling him to refugee status] on humanitarian grounds, with the aim of securing the blogger's early release so that he can be reunited with his family. The Canadian Government is prepared to offer Raif Badawi asylum.

1. What is the Commission's stance on the confirmation of the sentence imposed on Raif Badawi and the breach of human rights it constitutes?
2. Does it support Canada's initiative? How does the Commission plan to argue Raif Badawi's case so that he is allowed to travel to Quebec?