

**Question for written answer E-010765/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Harassment of NGOs in Egypt

In Egypt, harassment of nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) by the authorities seems to have become standard practice, as exemplified by the case of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS).

On 28 May 2015, the Director of the CIHRS addressed the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights. He particularly spoke about human rights violations, harassment of civil society and torture and assassinations in Egypt.

On 9 June, an expert committee of the Egyptian Government burst into the headquarters of the CIHRS to investigate the organisation's budgets and statutes. The timing of this investigation, in close proximity to the statements made to the European Parliament by the Director of the CIHRS, once again demonstrates the growing pressure being brought to bear on Egyptian NGOs.

1. How can the Commission support Egyptian NGOs and put an end to the pressure which is being exerted on them?
2. What position is the Commission adopting on the subject of human rights at bilateral meetings with the Egyptian Government?