

**Question for written answer E-010772/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Repeated human rights violations in Saudi Arabia

In early 2015, Raif Badawi, a Saudi Arabian blogger, was imprisoned and sentenced to a thousand lashes for apostasy. In his blog, he had been advocating freedom of expression and had shown no hesitation in criticising the methods used by his country's rulers.

Sadly to say, Mr Badawi has not been the only person to suffer this kind of treatment. According to Amnesty International there have been 40 executions in 2015 (4 times more than in the same period in 2014).

Moreover, besides the unjustified sentences and use of torture, there have been many other infringements of international law, such as discrimination against women, use of violence, the exploitation and slavery of servants and the death penalty.

1. Is the Commission aware of and informed on these repeated violations of international law and human rights in Saudi Arabia?
2. What steps will the Commission take to dissuade Saudi Arabia from continuing these practices?