

**Question for written answer E-011376/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Intimidation of the journalist Ali Lmrabet and reporting in Morocco

The Moroccan journalist Ali Lmrabet, winner of a number of internationally-renowned prizes for his outstanding journalistic work in support of democratic values and respect for human rights, has once again been victimised by the Moroccan authorities: having reached the end of a ten-year ban on working as a journalist, imposed on him following a conviction for 'defamation', he has now been denied the right to renew his documentation. This further attempt to obstruct Lmrabet's journalistic work comes as major organisations working to defend freedom of information condemn the increased persecution of journalists in Morocco. In May, the Ministry of the Interior filed a complaint against those responsible for preparing and distributing a Privacy International report on the online surveillance methods used by the government against journalists and information activists, which has been condemned by Reporters Without Borders as an attempt 'to intimidate those who have not already been reduced to self-censorship or silence'.

Is the VP/HR aware of this increased persecution of journalists and information activists in Morocco?

Will the VP/HR demand that the Moroccan Government stop violating the rights of the journalist Ali Lmrabet as a citizen and renew his identity documents?

Will the Commission put pressure on the Moroccan Government to keep its promises regarding democratisation and stop obstructing the work of journalists?