

**Question for written answer E-012018/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Situation of human rights in Bahrain and case of Nabeel Rajab

On 9 July 2015, Parliament adopted a resolution in which it called on the Bahraini Government for the 'dropping of charges and immediate and unconditional release of all human rights defenders, political activists and other individuals [...], including Nabeel Rajab, Sheikh Ali Salman and the "Bahrain 13"', expressed 'its grave concern regarding the misuse of anti-terrorism laws in Bahrain', condemned 'the continuing use of torture and other cruel, degrading treatment or punishment', and encouraged the Government of Bahrain to cooperate with the UN special rapporteurs, to 'take all steps to guarantee an impartial and fair judicial system', and to 'pursue the national consensus dialogue with a view to finding lasting and inclusive national reconciliation and sustainable political solutions for the crisis'.

The following day, the Bahraini Ministry for Foreign Affairs stated that the text adopted 'does not reflect the stance of effective influential political forces nor does it reflect the position of the European Union'.

Does the Vice-President / High Representative agree with the statement issued by the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Can the VP/HR clarify whether, and to what extent exactly, the EU stance differs from that of Parliament?