

**Question for written answer E-013152/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Persecution of the journalist and activist for press freedom in Morocco, Maati Monjib

The Moroccan journalist and historian Maati Monjib has started a hunger strike to protest against the police operation that prevented him from travelling to Barcelona on 14 September 2015 to attend an academic forum at the European Institute of the Mediterranean on the role of journalism in the Middle East and North Africa.

Monjib had already complained about the pressure and threats made against him in relation to his activities as director of the Moroccan Association of Investigative Journalists and Freedom Now. His complaints of persecution have been backed up by Reporters without Borders.

On 19 September the Moroccan Ministry of the Interior denied that the historian had been banned from travelling abroad or had been the target of 'abuse' or 'death threats', but at the same time announced that it was opening an investigation into alleged 'financial irregularities' committed by the activist.

Is the VP/HR aware of the growing harassment of journalists in Morocco, other recent examples being the cases of Hicham Mansouri and Ali Mrabet?

Does the VP/HR not consider the investigation into alleged financial irregularities committed by Monjib to be an arbitrary act, given that it was opened a matter of days after it became known that he planned to take part in a forum on press freedom in Spain?