

**Question for written answer E-000437/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights in Kuwait

In Kuwait, the authorities have arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned scores of peaceful activists, including human rights defenders and political opponents.

Many of those imprisoned in the ongoing crackdown are prisoners of conscience targeted for peacefully exercising their right to express themselves freely. Some activists face numerous charges and are mired in multiple costly lawsuits, facing court proceedings and jail sentences on a cyclical basis. Court processes can sometimes drag out over prolonged periods –sometimes years – due to recurring delays and trial adjournments.

During a review of Kuwait's human rights record at the UN Human Rights Council in June 2015 the Kuwaiti Government promised to implement nine specific recommendations committing it to upholding international standards relating to freedom of expression.

Is the VP/HR going to have talks with the Government of Kuwait to encourage it to undertake these steps?