

**Question for written answer E-004014/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Andy Hall, EU citizen and human rights defender

On 19 May Andy Hall, UK and EU citizen and labour rights activist, will be put on trial again in Thailand. He faces two criminal and two civil charges: the most serious of the charges is violation of Thailand's Computer Crimes Act. Following a lengthy travel ban, his passport has only recently been returned to him.

Andy currently spends time defending migrant workers in Thailand who are also facing trial. Many trials have been widely criticised by observers over reports of torture and falsified evidence.

To what extent has the EU been involved in other recent cases where human rights defenders have been prosecuted in Thailand?

What efforts is the VP/HR making vis-à-vis the Thai authorities to ensure that Andy Hall receives a fair trial?

What discussions have the VP/HR and the EU delegation had with their Thai counterparts regarding the increasing use of the criminal law to restrict freedom of expression, particularly given the operational guidelines and relevant articles of the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders?