

**Question for written answer E-005175/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Activist Lorent Saleh held for 22 months in a Venezuelan underground prison

Lorent Saleh, a Venezuelan student activist, has been held for 22 months in an underground prison in Caracas known as 'the Tomb'. His cell, measuring six square metres, has no ventilation or natural light, as it is six floors below ground. Although, according to his mother, he has serious health problems, he has never been examined by a doctor in all the time – nearly two years – that he has spent in detention. Several NGOs have been claiming that the Venezuelan Government uses the Tomb as a place for torturing political dissidents. Lorent Saleh was arrested in September 2014, without a trial or a preliminary hearing; the regime accused him of plotting a terrorist attack backed by the Colombian right, including Ex-President Álvaro Uribe. Given the inhuman conditions under which Lorent Saleh is being held and the particularly sorry plight in which he consequently finds himself:

How will the EU seek to draw the attention of the international community to the case of Lorent Saleh and make the Venezuelan authorities ensure that he receives medical care and is entitled to an independent trial and decent conditions of detention?