

**Question for written answer E-008045/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Malaysia

In Malaysia, artist Fahmi Reza is facing two criminal charges for posting on social media a clown-face image of Prime Minister Najib Razak with white powder on his face, arched eyebrows and a blood-red mouth. In June 2016, a court sentenced Mohammed Amirul Azwan Mohammad Shakri, 19, to one year in prison under the Communications and Multimedia Act after he pled guilty to 'insulting' the Sultan of Johor on social media. When he appealed against his sentence being overly harsh, the court then ordered that he be sent instead to reform school until the age of 21 – a period of nearly two years.

Will the VP/HR hold talks with the Government of Malaysia aimed at encouraging the authorities to cease prosecuting people for criticism or perceived 'insults,' and to urgently revise its laws in order to meet international free expression standards?