

**Question for written answer E-002093/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Venezuelan political prisoner Lorent Saleh suffering from increasingly poor health

Venezuelan student and activist Lorent Saleh, who has been held for two-and-a-half years in an underground prison in Caracas known as 'the tomb', has been suffering from increasingly poor health in recent days. Having been arrested in 2014 with no preliminary hearing or indictment to date, he is currently confined to in an underground cell of six square metres without ventilation or natural light. After several weeks during which he was scarcely able to breathe, he was transferred on 10 March to the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (Sebin) headquarters in Plaza Venezuela, where he was diagnosed with bronchitis. Even more serious are the severe kidney complications from which he suffers. Although the prison authorities are aware of this, he has never been treated by a specialist, as required by his state of health, in accordance with Venezuelan law and in line with the precautionary measures in his favour requested by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2015. In view of this:

What pressure will the EU bring to bear on the Venezuelan authorities to provide Lorent Saleh with the necessary medical care, clarify the charges against him and ensure that he receives an independent trial?