

**Question for written answer E-002148/2017  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)  
Rule 130  
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Detention of journalists in Uzbekistan

On 1 March 2017, Shavkat Mirziyoyev's government detained human rights activist Elena Urlaeva and confined her to a psychiatric hospital. The Uzbek authorities point to Elena Urlaeva's psychiatric treatment as proof that she is not mentally competent to make any judgements about events inside Uzbekistan.

Elena Urlaeva is perhaps best known to local authorities for her efforts to document the use of forced labour in the cotton industry. She has proven a particularly insistent thorn in the government's side by producing evidence that has disproved official claims that children, students and government workers are no longer being compelled to take part in harvesting.

Will the VP/HP encourage the government to release Elena Urlaeva and other detained journalists, such as Yusuf Ruzimuradov, Salidzhon Abdurakhmanov and Dilmurod Said?