

**Question for written answer E-003587/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Daniele Viotti (S&D)

Subject: Violations of the rule of law in Italy

On 15 June 2018, in Ivrea, during an election rally for the Minister of the Interior, Matteo Salvini, some activists for Amnesty International displayed a banner dedicated to Giulio Regeni, the Italian researcher tortured and killed in Egypt. The police arrested them and registered them.

On 16 June, in Syracuse, during the Pride festival, two protesters displayed a banner stating 'Forever fighting Salvini, homophobia and all barriers'. Police asked for the banner to be removed because it was 'too provocative'.

Although decisions on public order and security are the responsibility of Member States, Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights protects freedom of expression and Article 12 protects the freedom of assembly and association. These rights are also protected by the European Convention on Human Rights.

One of the founding values of the EU is the respect for the rule of law and the fundamental rights of citizens, including those mentioned above.

Does the Commission believe that the events discussed signal a possible violation of the rule of law in Italy? If so, what does it intend to do?