

Question for written answer E-005436/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: The European Union's response to the murder of the Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi

One would be hard pressed to overstate the significance of mass media for modern day societies. Which is why one must be disturbed by the number of journalists murdered worldwide in relation to their work, and the fact that many such crimes remain unsolved!

Most recently, the public has been shaken by the news of the brutal murder of the Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi known for his critical views of the government in Riyadh. What is particularly unsettling in this case is the fact that the murder, indeed apparently a thoroughly planned execution, was committed at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul – an institution which citizens of a given country are supposed to consider a safe haven rather than a potential venue for persecution and murder!

The described events must be decisively and firmly condemned but that will not be enough. It is clear that in cases like this, the perpetrators are unlikely to be moved by any 'verbal condemnation'. Were it to be confirmed that the murder of Jamal Khashoggi was indeed instigated by Saudi special forces on orders received from Riyadh, the EU, the USA, as well as all other democratic states in the world ought to review their policies with regard to Saudi Arabia, including the possibility of introducing sanctions. Violations of human rights must not be tolerated solely due to the fact that the same are committed in allied states.

Therefore, I wish to inquire as to the steps that the Commission intends to take in order to uncover, in cooperation with other partners, all the facts related to this heinous crime and to persecute its perpetrators?