

**Question for written answer P-009030/2014**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Charles Tannock (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Dervishes of the Nematollah Gonabadi Order

On 31 August 2014 nine members of the aforementioned dervish order began a hunger strike lasting for thirty-four days. The majority of these individuals are reported to have been imprisoned following the publication on their website of material relating to the alleged murder of a dervish order member by the Iranian security forces.

The nine individuals have spoken out against the dire conditions of their imprisonment, as well as claiming to have been denied medical treatment. The hunger strikers also cited the comments of Mr Mahmoud Alavi, Iran's Minister of Intelligence, who allegedly accused the dervish orders of being Satanists, as a basis for their protest. They ended their hunger strike after assurances from the Iranian Government that medical treatment would be provided and that the prison conditions would be reassessed. So far these assurances have not been met.

The nine individuals have been held in prison for a considerable period of time and there is still no accurate or shared view of the exact legal basis for their imprisonment.

1. Is the Vice President / High Representative (VP/HR) aware of this issue and what representations, if any, have been made to the Iranian authorities on the individuals' behalf?
2. Will the VP/HR instruct the relevant sections of the EEAS to investigate the legal basis for the individuals' imprisonment?