

**Question for written answer P-007721/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Imminent execution of Sheikh Al-Nimr in Saudi Arabia

Sheikh Nimr Baqir Al-Nimr, a prominent cleric and peaceful political activist in the eastern region of Saudi Arabia, was sentenced to death in October 2014 for sedition and unrest against the Saudi Government. His execution is now imminent. Sheikh Al-Nimr has huge influence amongst the repressed Shi'a population in the region and has been unjustly imprisoned and sentenced for exercising his freedom of expression, as he was not granted a fair due process and was often denied access to legal representation. At the time his arrest was met with widespread and violent protests in the kingdom that left several people dead. It is feared that his execution will spark more violence and bloodshed.

Bearing in mind the EU's commitment to human rights in its foreign policy role, its strong opposition to capital punishment and the concern expressed in the VP/HR's letter of 16 January 2015 about Sheikh Al-Nimr's case, what action does the VP/HR plan to take in order to pressure the Saudi Government to:

1. Stop the imminent execution of Sheikh Al-Nimr?
2. Ensure that Sheikh Al-Nimr is granted access to legal representation and a fair trial, in accordance with basic human rights?