

**Question for written answer E-002030/2012  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 117  
**Thijs Berman (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Rizana Nafeek

On 25 October 2010 Rizana Nafeek, a 22-year-old Sri Lankan domestic worker, was sentenced to death by the Supreme Court in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She had been arrested five years earlier on charges of murdering an infant in her care. She was 17 years old at the time. Her passport states that she was born in February 1982, but according to her birth certificate she was born in February 1988. According to several sources, she was not allowed to present her birth certificate at the trial. Furthermore, she had no access to lawyers either during the pre-trial period or at her first trial. She initially 'confessed' to the murder under interrogation, but has since retracted her confession, which she says she was forced to make under duress following physical assault. The death sentence is now awaiting ratification by the King. If it is ratified, she will be executed by beheading.

Saudi Arabia is a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which prohibits the execution of offenders for crimes committed when they were aged under 18.

- Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of the situation of Rizana Nafeek?
- If so, has she called on the Saudi government to ensure that the authorities have respected Rizana Nafeek's right to a fair trial?
- Will she put pressure on the Saudi government to respect the CRC?
- If so, how will this be done?