

Question for written answer E-010714/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Michał Tomasz Kamiński (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Tunisia and freedom of expression

On 30 August 2013, a Tunisian court sentenced two rappers to prison for 'government defamation'. The two youths had released songs insulting the police and were then beaten by the police en route to the Hammamet police station. The pair were not informed of their trial and only later learned of their sentencing through social media. Tunisian law allows for the prosecution of individuals who make statements considered objectionable by the government, even though the Johannesburg Principles on National Security, Freedom of Expression, and Access to Information protects the rights of citizens to criticise 'abstract institutions,' such as government.

Is the High Representative aware of this particular violation of human rights? How is the EU addressing the issue of infringements of freedom of expression in Tunisia?