

Question for written answer E-004146/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Marietje Schaake (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - The case of Rena Netjes

In February 2014 Rena Netjes, a Dutch citizen and the Egypt correspondent for several Dutch media outlets, was forced to flee Egypt after discovering that she was accused of being part of a terrorist cell and risked arrest and trial. In the documents mentioning her, her name was spelled wrongly, her passport number was wrong and it was wrongly stated that she was a fugitive. The case was built around her being employed by Al Jazeera, for which she had never worked. Ms Netjes has not been able to return to Egypt, for fear of being arrested. The case of Ms Netjes is just one example of the Egyptian authorities further restricting press and media freedom and freedom of expression, including for foreign journalists.

1. Is the VP/HR aware of the case of Rena Netjes?
2. What steps has the VP/HR taken to promote and protect freedom of the press and media and freedom of expression in Egypt?
3. How has the VP/HR supported foreign journalists active in Egypt or foreign journalists currently on trial and/or in prison?
4. Has the VP/HR taken any action to address cases such as that of Ms Netjes with the Egyptian authorities? If so, what action has been taken? If not, is the VP/HR willing to take such action?
5. How does the VP/HR plan to promote and protect press and media freedom and freedom of expression and human rights more broadly in Egypt in the future?