

Question for written answer E-012359/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Claude Moraes (S&D), Richard Howitt (S&D) and Afzal Khan (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights in the United Arab Emirates

The Arab Spring in 2011 influenced a number of political and social activism movements across the region, including in the United Arab Emirates, where petitioners have called for free and fair elections. Unfortunately, there have been several reports of harassment and intimidation directed at a number of activists. Given the concerns of human rights abuses and violations of international conventions in the UAE:

1. Does the Commission intend to raise the issue of unfair treatment of activists in future bilateral meetings with the UAE Government?
2. What is the Commission doing to promote freedom of speech and freedom of press and association in the Middle East?
3. What is it doing to support and promote free and fair elections in the UAE?