

**Question for written answer E-014209/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Situation of human rights in Bahrain and the case of Ibrahim Sharif

On 9 July 2015, the European Parliament adopted a resolution in which it welcomed 'the early release from prison of opposition leader Ibrahim Sharif in June 2015 after he was given a royal pardon' and considered it as an 'important step in the process of promoting trust and confidence in Bahrain'. However, three weeks after his release, Ibrahim Sharif was re-arrested after giving a speech calling for democratic reforms in the country. He is now facing charges of 'promoting political change through forceful means and threats and inciting hatred against the regime' and his next trial hearing is scheduled for 12 November 2015.

Does the VP/HR share our grave concerns about this further evidence that repression and intimidation against peaceful dissenters in the country continues unabated?

How does the VP/HR and the European External Action Service (EEAS) plan to address this specific case with the Bahraini authorities? Namely, will there be diplomatic observation of his trial?

More broadly, and pursuant to the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy adopted in June 2012, what practical measures will the VP/HR take to secure the release of individuals who have been imprisoned solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly in Bahrain?