

Question for written answer E-005407/2018/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - The plight of El Bachir Khadda, a Saharawi political prisoner from the Gdeim Izik Group

El Bachir Khadda is one of the Saharawi political prisoners from the Gdeim Izik Group. He covered events at the camp as a journalist and was consequently arrested with the rest of the group, whereupon he was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Mr Khadda has been on a hunger strike since 18 September 2018 to protest against the torture he is subjected to in Tiflet 2 prison in Morocco. Part of his systematic ill-treatment by Moroccan authorities involves continuous and unjustified isolation for 22 hours a day in a cell without even the most basic standards of hygiene. He is also threatened and harassed by guards, among others, so is in constant fear of his life.

Given that confinement in inhuman conditions of isolation is contrary to international law (Rule 17 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners):

- 1) Does the Vice-President / High Representative intend to continue ignoring these human rights violations?
- 2) Does the Commission still believe it can defend its trade dialogue with a regime that has been exposed internationally as torturers?