

**Question for written answer E-001873/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Situation of Sahrawi prisoners in Moroccan gaols

Ten cases were recorded in 2018 alone of Sahrawi prisoners in Morocco being denied their right to receive visits from family members and defence lawyers, which is a violation of the UN's Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners – the Nelson Mandela Rules — approved by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015. When the French lawyers Olfa Ouled and Ingrid Metton travelled to visit various clients at the El Arjat 1, Oukaccha, Kenitra and Tifelt prisons in Lakhmissat, for instance, they were not even allowed to enter Morocco.

To make matters worse, the Moroccan Government will not allow any moves to open investigations into complaints filed by family members or Sahrawi political prisoners in Moroccan gaols. There have even been cases in which prisoners or their family members have been forced to withdraw a complaint they have filed.

- 1) Will the Vice-President / High Representative denounce the actions of the Moroccan Government?
- 2) Given this clear denial of human rights in Morocco, will the Commission continue to allow various agreements to be signed with a government that is in breach of a number of international treaties?