

Question for written answer E-000310/2020

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Charlie Weimers (ECR), Christine Anderson (ID)

Subject: Conditions of female political prisoners in Isa Town Prison, Bahrain

Isa Town Prison, the only female detention facility in Bahrain, has been cited in relation to numerous human rights violations, such as lack of access to medical care, physical and psychological abuse, threats of sexual violence, and religious discrimination. In 2018, a letter was sent to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and several UN special rapporteurs regarding conditions in the prison, cases of arbitrary detention, and the use of collective punishment.

Medina Ali, a 27-year-old sales associate, and Zakeya al-Barboori, a 31-year-old engineering student, are both serving sentences in Isa Town Prison following unfair trials. Ali was severely beaten following her arrest in 2017, and again in 2018 as a form of punishment. Al-Barboori was held in solitary confinement for 28 days after being arrested and forcibly disappeared for participating in a protest. In both cases, no warrants were presented to justify the entering and searching of either woman's home, and Ali's trial was conducted in absentia.

1. Is the EU aware of the conditions in Isa Town Prison?
2. What action will the EU take regarding the cases of Medina Ali and Zakeya al-Barboori?
3. Has the EU raised concerns with Bahrain regarding its use of arbitrary detention and collective punishment?

Supporters¹

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