

Question for written answer E-000864/2020/rev.1

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Infringement of human rights of European citizens sentenced in other jurisdictions

Enrico Forti ('Chico'), an Italian national, has been sentenced in the USA to life imprisonment without parole for the murder of Dale Pike.

The case, which has for years been a source of controversy, was built on a superficial reconstruction of events and has attracted criticism by criminologists and forensic experts. It does not appear to stand the test of reasonable doubt, a cornerstone of the American judicial system, and doubts have been raised regarding the reliability and authenticity of the evidence.

The fact that Enrico Forti has received a life sentence on the basis of flimsy evidence for a crime that he might not have committed could constitute a breach of his human rights.

His defence team, with the support of the Italian Prime Minister's Office, is leaving no stone unturned to prove his innocence or at least enable him to serve the remainder of his sentence in Italy.

Given the importance of upholding and safeguarding human rights:

- What representations does the Vice-President / High Representative intend to make at diplomatic level regarding this and similar cases, with a view to protecting European citizens who may have been unfairly convicted or whose human rights may have been infringed?