

Question for written answer E-001230/2020

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: (VP/HR) Expulsion from Morocco of MPs from the Catalan Parliament involved in the Intergroup for peace and freedom in the Sahara

On 28 February 2020 a delegation from the Catalan Parliament – comprising Susanna Segovia, Ferran Civit and Vidal Aragonés, members of the Intergroup for peace and freedom in the Sahara – were expelled from Morocco, along with a number of other activists, as soon as they had landed at Laâyoune as part of an official visit to the occupied territories. The purpose of the visit was to liaise with human rights activists and establish dialogue with a view to putting a stop to repression and upholding the right to demonstrate, the right to freedom of expression, and the rights of the Sahrawi people.

1. Activists and elected representatives have been expelled on numerous occasions with no justification being given. What is the Vice-President / High Representative going to do to guarantee that targeted, politically motivated expulsions like these do not happen again in future?
2. Is the Vice-President / High Representative intending to make a formal complaint to the Moroccan authorities about the expulsion of elected representatives from Europe who were performing their duties as MPs?