

**Question for written answer E-003980/2020/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:** The situation of women rights' defenders in Saudi Arabia

Loujain Al-Hathloul, a prominent Saudi women's rights defender known for her activism on women's right to drive, was arrested in May 2018 by the Saudi authorities. During the first months of her detention, she was held without charge or trial and was allegedly subjected to torture. The European Parliament has adopted two resolutions on her specific case, one in May 2018 and one in February 2019. Her arbitrary arrest was confirmed by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which said that 'the criminal charges for which she has been indicted and tried clearly concern her internationally renowned public campaign.'

1. What specific actions has the European External Action Service, and more concretely, the EU Delegation in Riyadh, taken to ensure that Loujain Al-Hathloul's human rights are respected and her release is ensured and will the VP/HR issue a statement calling for her release?
2. Is the VP/HR planning to suggest that the Member States add an annex on women's rights defenders to the EU guidelines on human rights defenders?
3. Will the VP/HR suggest that the Member States add a discussion on human rights, particularly the situation of women's rights defenders, as a permanent item on the agenda of the annual summit between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council?