

Question for written answer E-005375/2020

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: EU citizens held hostage in Iran

Just months from her expected release, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was told she would face a second trial, which was postponed at short notice with no explanation and no future date set. The Iranian regime continues to deliberately target and detain dual citizens and foreign nationals on vague and unsubstantiated charges. Iranian authorities systematically deny access to any legal counsel during investigation and use these individuals as bargaining chips to resolve diplomatic disputes.

1. Can the European External Action Service request to visit Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe and other EU citizens detained by the Iranian authorities?
2. What further steps will the Vice-President / High Representative consider in order to work towards the release of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe and EU citizens held hostage by the Iranian authorities?
3. Does the Vice-President / High Representative agree that the practice of hostage diplomacy by the Iranian authorities is incompatible with a functioning Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action? How will the Vice-President / High Representative seek assurances that the practice of host age diplomacy will stop?