

**Question for written answer E-005889/2020/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Massimiliano Salini (PPE)**

Subject: Current situation in Algeria

Following months of protests by citizens, Algeria should be undergoing political reform, in particular through a referendum to reform the constitution. The success of this process is important for the EU, as Algeria is a close neighbour and the largest country in Africa. However, the fundamental freedoms situation in the country limits the necessary political reforms. International NGOs report repression of political movements<sup>1</sup>, abuses of political prisoners<sup>2</sup>, and forceful expulsion of refugees including many children<sup>3</sup>. Local media and civil society even decry the killing of two young Saharawis, who were reportedly burned alive by the army as they were in an open cast gold mine without a permit near the camp where they live in the Tindouf area<sup>4</sup>.

In light of the above considerations:

Is the Commission aware of these developments, and can it confirm them?

Does the Commission believe that the current situation allows for a successful and stable political reform in this important EU neighbour?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/04/algeria-end-repression-against-hirak-activists-and-journalists-amid-covid19/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde28/3232/2020/en/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/09/algeria-migrants-asylum-seekers-forced-out>

<sup>4</sup> <https://it.italiatelegraph.com/news-40747>