

**Question for written answer E-006262/2020**

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

Rule 138

**Jérôme Rivière (ID)**

Subject: Sentencing of Yacine Mebarki

In Algeria, the Amazigh activist and member of the Hirak movement, Yacine Mebarki, has just been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for 'offence against the precepts of Islam', on the grounds that the authorities had found a yellowing Koran with one page torn at his home.

This ludicrous and outrageous attack on freedom of conscience, presented under the guise of a deceptive smokescreen, shows that the Algerian Government sets absolutely no store by people's basic rights or freedom of conscience.

This attitude contravenes seriously Article 2 of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Algeria, which relates to human rights issues.

Will the Vice-President / High Representative call on the Algerian Government to release Yacine Mebarki immediately?