

**Question for written answer E-000517/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz** (The Left)

Subject: Respecting the right to seek asylum

On 18 January, 16 people fleeing persecution in the Rif region of Morocco arrived in Spain, including former Hirak Movement prisoners Jamal Mouna, Mohamed El Jaouhari and Redouane Boutchakkout, who all applied for international protection.

Currently, they are awaiting deportation proceedings (temporarily halted) in the Detention Centre for Foreigners in Murcia, where basic COVID-19 hygiene and social distancing rules are not met.

Public protests have been taking place in the Rif since 2017, with hundreds of people being imprisoned, including Nasser Zefzafi. Amnesty International drew up a report detailing arbitrary arrests, unfair trials, torture and excessive sentences.

1. In accordance with CJEU case law, does the Commission consider that Spain is complying with the proper procedures for protecting asylum seekers by detaining these 16 people?
2. Does the Commission think that during this pandemic, the right to not contract COVID-19 must be effectively ensured?
3. What steps will the Commission take to improve compliance with asylum legislation and the right to health of these 16 people from the Rif?