

Question for written answer E-000714/2021

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: Crackdown on cultural movements in Cuba

On 27 January 2021 a number of artists, activists and journalists linked to 27NCuba and Movimiento San Isidro, two cultural movements, were harassed, threatened and detained. Images shared on social media show that Cuba's Culture Minister Alpidio Alonso and a number of junior ministers took part in the crackdown, during which Mauricio Mendoza, a journalist, was beaten, and several other demonstrators were threatened.

1. What pressure does the VP/HR think should be brought to bear to make the Cuban Government understand that persecution cannot continue to be the response to the Cuban people's desire for freedom and democracy?
2. What steps has the EEAS taken to keep abreast of – and support – these cultural movements' demands, and what has its response been to this persecution? Is this not just yet another reminder that there is no dialogue on human rights, despite the fact that there should be one under Article 5 of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba?