

**Question for written answer E-001960/2021/rev.1  
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: Human rights in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that is known for repression of the rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression.

Although Amnesty International has reported that the number of executions in Saudi Arabia has decreased, this is an ongoing issue, and oppression of dissidents remains strong.

Human rights violations against and the arrest of human rights defenders, harsh repression of opposition and the persecution of homosexuals are also common in Saudi Arabia.

Furthermore, the kafala (sponsorship) system deters migrants from changing jobs and increases their risk of being trapped in low-wage jobs.

In addition, large numbers of people are suffering because of Riyadh's use of mass starvation as a weapon of war in Yemen, which is being caused by fighting and the Saudi blockade.

1. What is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy doing to resolve these human rights violations and liberate the victims?
2. What measures has he taken so far to help imprisoned human rights defenders gain access to legal assistance?
3. Is he working on initiatives to bring about an end to the fighting and to lift Riyadh's blockade of Yemen?