

Question for written answer E-002049/2021/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: Bahrain's political prisoners

Following the recent death of political prisoner Abbas Malallah in the detention centre where he was incarcerated, protesters took to the streets to demand accountability for his death.

Despite the pressure exerted on the government by these peaceful protests, Bahraini detainees are still suffering due to the negligence of the authorities and their refusal to allow them medical treatment, while COVID-19 is spreading behind the bars of Bahrain's overcrowded prisons.

While it is appreciated that a number of political prisoners and human rights activists have been released in the past few days, it is strange that they were granted conditional release.

It has been alleged that interrogation techniques in Bahraini prisons include mistreatment and torture, which creates a climate of fear and anxiety. This goes against international human rights law.

1. Why is it difficult to justify and act on the resolution tabled by the European People's Party calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Abdulhadi al-Khawaja and other political prisoners?
2. Will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) request a dialogue with the Bahraini Government regarding the situation of its political prisoners?
3. What measures has the VP/HR taken to hold the Bahraini Government accountable for its ongoing mistreatment of prisoners and failure to provide them with adequate healthcare?