

Question for written answer E-002073/2021

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

Rule 138

Assita Kanko (ECR)

Subject: Right to humane treatment in Turkish prisons

Forty year old Fabien Azoulay has been behind bars in Turkey for four years now. The Turkish courts sentenced him to 16 years imprisonment on drug charges. The conditions of his detention are a cause for concern. His lawyer stated: 'He has been raped, beaten and abused with boiling water. He has been subjected to intimidation because of his sexual orientation, especially by radicalised prisoners. He has repeatedly been placed under pressure to convert to Islam because he is Jewish. He can no longer sleep.' Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It is therefore also the responsibility of the Turkish authorities to ensure that the right to humane treatment also applies to detainees and to guarantee that this is actually the case in practice, even where the homophobia and antisemitism are being perpetrated by other detainees.

Does the VP/HR intend to remind the Turkish Government of this responsibility and, in the case at hand, does he intend to ensure that the prisoner is transferred to a French prison to serve his sentence?