

**Question for written answer E-002786/2021  
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:** Secret prisons in Yemen and human rights abuses perpetrated by the United Arab Emirates

From 2015 onwards, UAE interventions in Yemen, through the Saudi-led coalition, have caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, which has only been made worse by the spread of COVID-19. Various instances have brought to light how the Emirati police run and control secret prisons where Yemeni nationals are continually subjected to torture.

Reports on the use of widespread torture in Emirati-led secret prisons in Yemen first began circulating in 2018. In June 2020, the Emirati activist Mohammed al-Qaidi unveiled new horrifying details of torture in Emirati prisons in Yemen when he described the abuse he endured at the hands of jailers in a series of tweets. Specifically, these jailers follow a strict schedule: beatings on Saturday, torture on Sundays, rest on Mondays, and so forth. He stated that Fridays are reserved for solitary confinement. Furthermore, sexual violence is utilised as the primary tool for imposing penalties on prisoners and for extracting confessions.

Given that the UAE has acceded to the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT), what has the VP/HR done to guarantee that the provisions of the UNCAT are fully respected?