

**Question for written answer E-003473/2021**

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

Rule 138

**Ivan Vilibor Sinčić (NI)**

Subject: Political prisoners in Bahrain and violations of human rights

Bahrain has no independent media. All locally based newspapers and broadcasters support the government and are owned and/or managed by people close to the government. Bahrain has used the pretext of COVID-19 to further repress freedom of expression.

Recent reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch indicate that the Bahraini Government still imprisons human right activists and opposition leaders in unsanitary conditions. The lack of adequate sanitation led to scabies outbreaks in Jau Prison – Bahrain's largest prison – and the Dry Dock Detention Center in December 2019 and January 2020. The authorities continue to deny Bahraini prisoners adequate medical care.

What plans does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have to stop these violations in Bahrain?