

Question for written answer E-003474/2021

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: Political prisoners languishing behind bars in the UAE

Since 2011, the UAE authorities have been carrying out a sustained assault on the freedoms of expression and association. They have employed vaguely worded and loosely interpreted provisions in the country's penal code and other laws to imprison peaceful critics, political dissidents and human rights activists.

'Despite its assertions about tolerance, the UAE Government has demonstrated no real interest in improving its human rights record,' said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East Director at Human Rights Watch. 'To truly prove itself tolerant, the UAE should start by releasing all those unjustly imprisoned for not toeing the official line.'

1. Should the EU not be more involved with the UAE in order to protect human rights activists and political opposition leaders?
2. What are the steps needed to ensure that these atrocities will not happen again?