

**Question for written answer E-003477/2021**

**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 Saudi Arabia and the lack of transparency of the Saudi authorities

Recent reports published by Human Rights Watch, the US government and Amnesty International about the abuses committed by the Saudi government on political prisoners revealed details about the extent of these Saudi government abuses on political prisoners and detainees in the Kingdom.

The government maintains there are no political prisoners in the Kingdom, including no detainees, who reportedly remain in prolonged detention without charge. However local activists, human rights organisations and credible advocacy groups claim that there are hundreds or thousands of such prisoners, including peaceful activists, political opposition leaders, non-violent religious figures, women's rights defenders, and human rights activists.

Given all the abuses Saudi authorities commit on activists, opposition leaders and many others, what has the VP/HR done to stop these atrocities?