

Question for written answer E-004257/2021

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: Severe violations of children's human rights in Bahrain

International human rights organisations have criticised Bahrain for failing to safeguard the human rights of a group of around 13 children aged 11-17 who were detained in early to mid-February for alleged crimes related to protests. The children later reported that they had been handcuffed and blindfolded and were insulted, slapped, lashed and threatened with rape by the police.

This followed previous reports of abuses against another 10 children who were threatened with rape and electric shocks from wires attached to a car battery in an outbuilding at Hamad Town Police Station. Moreover, the four boys in this case were being prosecuted as adults and in some cases shared cells with adult inmates. So far the authorities have failed to credibly investigate and prosecute officials and police officers who allegedly committed serious violations including torture, creating a culture of impunity.

1. Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) aware of these severe human rights violations?
2. Given the cooperation arrangement in place between the European External Action Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, what steps does the VP/HR intend to take to prevent such violations from happening again?