

Question for written answer E-004551/2021/rev.1

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

Rule 138

Dietmar Köster (S&D)

Subject: Bahrain

Hasan Mushaima, prisoner in Bahrain since 2011, was offered release subject to two conditions heavily restricting his fundamental rights. Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) aware of the intention of the Bahraini authorities to release prisoners under restrictive conditions?

Parliament's resolution of 11 March 2021¹ urges the Government of Bahrain to abide by its obligations on torture. What steps has the EU taken to urge the Government to comply with its international obligations on torture, and ensure there are thorough investigations into torture allegations with a view to holding those responsible to account?

The resolution calls on Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to use his authority to move Bahrain towards political reform and human rights. What steps has the VP/HR taken to:

1. call on Bahraini authorities to allow civil society organisations and independent media, such as Al Wasat, to operate and foreign media to have access to the country?
2. call for the immediate lifting of the travel ban on human rights defenders, including Nabeel Rajab, and insist that Bahraini authorities guarantee that they can carry out their activities, inside and outside the country?
3. ask the Bahraini authorities to promptly amend Act No. 58 (2006) on protecting society from all laws that are not compliant with these international obligations?

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2021)0086.