

Question for written answer E-000791/2022

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

Rule 138

Fulvio Martusciello (PPE)

Subject: Italian entrepreneur detained in Abu Dhabi on unspecified charges

Andrea Giuseppe Costantino is a 49-year-old oil and gas trader from Milan and former deputy mayor of Arese. Since the 21 March 2021, Mr Costantino has been locked in a cell in Al Wathba prison, United Arab Emirates. His conditions are appalling: he has lost more than 30 kg and has stated that he has been forced to fight with other inmates just to 'amuse' the guards.

The lack of transparency in the UAE judicial system is making it impossible to ascertain what the charges against him are. His lawyer has also been denied access to his file in order to see the charges against Mr Costantino and has not been allowed to meet him in person.

Stefania Giudice, Mr Costantino's partner, is struggling to understand what the real reasons for the detention could be. Mr Costantino was alleged to be a threat to UAE national security after he made two diesel deliveries to Yemen in 2015-2016, even though these supplies were legal, authorised and documented.

Is the VP/HR aware of this completely arbitrary detention and blatant denial of justice?