

Question for written answer E-002616/2022

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 sanitary conditions in Bahraini prisons for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience

Political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Bahrain are experiencing increasingly severe conditions and are currently at risk of contracting tuberculosis.

According to reports from the non-governmental organisation Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), received from inmates and later confirmed by the Bahraini authorities, a number of cases of tuberculosis have been confirmed in Jau Prison, Bahrain's main prison, where the prison authorities have denied inmates diagnostic testing.

Overcrowding within the prison, the low sanitary standards and the lack of adequate medical care entail the possibility of the further spread of a possibly deadly outbreak. Political prisoners are suffering the most from this situation, as, in addition to being detained on the basis of false accusations and confessions extracted through torture, they are currently also facing the risk of death.

In light of this:

1. Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) aware of this serious situation?
2. What measures has the VP/HR already taken or does he intend to take to secure the immediate release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience arbitrarily held in Bahraini jails?