

**Question for written answer E-003843/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Harassment and persecution of the journalist Ignacio Cembrero by Morocco

Morocco brought legal action against the journalist and Maghreb expert Ignacio Cembrero for denouncing that he had been a victim of the Pegasus spying system. In 2021, Forbidden Stories revealed that more than 10 000 mobile phones – including that of the journalist – had been targeted by the secret services of the Mohamed VI regime. Morocco is thus continuing its strategy of political persecution of media professionals and is using the Spanish courts for the fourth time to do so. Morocco is violating Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both on freedom of expression and information. In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to call on the Kingdom of Morocco to cease its harassment, bullying and persecution of those making use of the freedom of the press and freedom of expression?
2. Will the Commission review its agreements with Morocco in light of the violations of the human right to freedom of expression and information?
3. What is the Commission's view of the use of the Spanish courts for political and professional persecution by Morocco?

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