

Question for written answer E-000623/2023

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: Imminent risk of death faced by Idris Arsamikov, a gay Chechen refugee in the Netherlands

Idris Arsamikov is a gay Chechen refugee who fled to the Netherlands in 2018 to escape electroshock torture by authorities. Chechnya is known for prosecuting, arbitrarily detaining and torturing men perceived to be gay, which Parliament highlighted in 2019¹.

As Idris's father had recently passed away, he asked the Dutch immigration service for permission to attend the funeral in Russia; he was subsequently arrested at Moscow airport². His life is currently at risk, and this has been further aggravated by the surfacing of a video in which, under pressure, he 'confesses' to crimes.

1. Will the European External Action Service take urgent action, in coordination with the EU Delegation to Russia and Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore, to call for Idris's release?
2. Will the Vice-President / High Representative (VP/HR) coordinate with the relevant national diplomatic services, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity³ and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, to produce a joint international statement calling for Idris's release?
3. Can the VP/HR comment on how the EU guidelines on LGBTI rights, torture and the death penalty have been implemented in this case, whether the Working Party on Human Rights is aware of the case and whether a recommendation will be made to the Political and Security Committee?

Submitted: 27.2.2023

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-8-2019-0112_EN.html.

² <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/02/16/russia-detains-gay-chechen-refugee-at-moscow-airport-a80242>.

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity>.