

Question for written answer E-000771/2023

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

Rule 138

Karin Karlsbro (Renew)

Subject: The imprisonment of Belarusian human rights defender Ales Byalyatski

The Belarusian human rights defender Ales Byalyatski, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022, is the founder of the Belarusian human rights organisation Viasna. He has been politically imprisoned since 14 July 2021 and was, on 3 March 2023, sentenced to 10 years in prison. Byalyatski is one of at least 1 458 people who are currently being held as political prisoners in Belarus.

The sentence is a grim reminder of the brutal oppression of the Belarusian opposition and there is an urgent need for the EU to put more pressure on the Belarusian regime.

1. What actions will the Vice-President / High Representative (VP/HR) take in response to the imprisonment of Ales Byalyatski?
2. What actions will the VP/HR take to put more pressure on the Belarusian regime?

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