

**Question for written answer E-001022/2023
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Isabel Santos (S&D)

Subject: Arbitrary and inhumane detentions of political prisoners in Belarus: the cases of Palina Sharenda-Panasiuk and Viktoria Kulsha

Palina Sharenda-Panasiuk and Viktoria Kulsha are two women activists being held captive in inhuman conditions in Belarus. Both were arrested during protests against the 2020 presidential elections, in which Lukashenko was running for his sixth term.

These women are being tortured in prison, deprived of sleep and starved, and being held in punishment cells with no basic infrastructure or sanitation. Their health is deteriorating by the day. They are victims of the oppression of a regime that has charged them arbitrarily, without any due process or a fair trial.

The political situation in Belarus is even more worrying in the light of Lukashenko's increased support for Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, coupled with the alarming increase in authoritarian policies that we are witnessing across Europe. Furthermore, accountability for the human rights violations being perpetrated is conspicuous by its absence.

1. Taking into account the various resolutions adopted by the European Parliament, what concrete measures have been adopted by the Commission in support of political prisoners and civil society in Belarus?
2. Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to take urgent steps to increase sanctions against Belarus and the Lukashenko regime?

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