

**Question for written answer E-002705/2023/rev.1**

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

Rule 138

**Paolo Borchia (ID)**

**Subject:** Unlawful detention of a European External Action Service (EEAS) diplomat in Iran

On 4 September 2023, The New York Times – followed by numerous other newspapers – disclosed the identity of the Swedish citizen illegally detained in Iran. He is an employee of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU's diplomatic arm.

Josep Borrell, Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, declared that the EEAS diplomat was arrested on charges of espionage on 17 April 2022 while on a private holiday in Iran. The Iranian regime has been holding him captive for more than 500 days in Evin Prison in Teheran.

However, the espionage charge has not been proven and the conditions under which the EEAS employee is being held violate the UN standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners.

In addition, the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948 are not being respected, as the prisoner is currently being denied a number of fundamental rights, such as food and medical care.

In view of the above:

1. What steps will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy take to protect the aforementioned rights, which should be upheld well beyond the EU's borders?
2. What steps will he take to obtain the release of this unfairly detained diplomat, who is one of his subordinates?

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