

ORAL QUESTION H-0643/03
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Eurig Wyn
to the Council

Subject: Detention of prisoners in France without trial

Will the Council bring pressure to bear on the French authorities over the continued detention of political prisoners without trial? I refer in particular to the case of 6 Breton nationalist campaigners - four of whom have been imprisoned without trial for over three years and one, Alain Solé, for over five years.

Arrested in 1999 for alleged participation in bomb attacks, Alain Solé's health has deteriorated seriously as a result of his unlawful incarceration. He is now an insulin-dependent diabetic following the lack of adequate medical care in the months following his arrest. Each time his release has been ordered in accordance with French law, he has been linked to separate criminal charges and has remained in provisional detention.

The prisoners' detention is in clear violation of Article 5(3) of the European Convention on Human Rights. Will the Council commit to examining this issue in light of international standards governing the rights of those in provisional detention to trial within a reasonable time?

Tabled: 20.10.2003
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