

**Question for oral answer O-000045/2020**

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

Rule 136

**Anna Fotyga (ECR), Mazaly Aguilar (ECR), Petras Auštrevičius (Renew), Franc Bogovič (PPE), Marco Campomenosi (ID), Derk Jan Eppink (ECR), Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE), Raffaele Fitto (ECR), Rasa Juknevičienė (PPE), Elżbieta Kruk (ECR), Andrius Kubilius (PPE), Miriam Lexmann (PPE), Ljudmila Novak (PPE), Juozas Olekas (S&D), Urmaz Paet (Renew), Maite Pagazaurtundúa (Renew), Stanislav Polčák (PPE), Elżbieta Rafalska (ECR), Frédérique Ries (Renew), Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR), Bogdan Rzońca (ECR), Massimiliano Salini (PPE), Jacek Saryusz-Wolski (ECR), Radosław Sikorski (PPE), Ivan Štefanec (PPE), Hermann Tertsch (ECR), Ruža Tomašić (ECR), Romana Tomc (PPE), Alexandr Vondra (ECR), Veronika Vrecionová (ECR), Charlie Weimers (ECR), Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR), Jan Zahradil (ECR), Roberts Zīle (ECR), Milan Zver (PPE), Kosma Złotowski (ECR)**

Subject: Human rights situation in Iran, in particular the situation of political prisoners sentenced to death

The human rights situation in Iran remains devastating. More than 12 000 people have been arrested and at least 1 500 people were killed when protests erupted last November. There is still no information on the fate of many of the detainees. On 18 December 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning the Iranian regime for the 66th time for systematic human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, the detention of prisoners, the harassment of ethnic minorities and restrictions on freedom of expression. On 19 December 2019, Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the Iranian regime's response to the non-violent protests in November 2019 and demanding that all protesters, human rights defenders and journalists held under arrest be freed unconditionally. New waves of arrests have swept the country in recent months. Two Iranian elite students, Ali Younesi and Amir Hossein Moradi, were arrested and beaten on 10 April 2020 without any justification. The Iranian opposition subsequently released the names of 18 other people arrested during the recent protests. A few days ago, the Supreme Court of Iran upheld the death sentences against Amir Hossein Moradi, Mohammad Rajabi and Saeed Tamjidi who were arrested on political charges during last November's protests. The regime regularly hands down flogging sentences against protesters and dissidents among others. The Iranian regime has so far denied the entry of a UN Special Rapporteur and hampered any means of monitoring the human rights situation in Iran.

1. Those who have been unjustly arrested and detained are being subjected to torture, and some of them may even face the death penalty. What concrete and urgent initiatives does the European External Action Service (EEAS) plan to take in order to prevent any executions from being carried out, to stop torture and to ensure that the Iranian regime releases the persons who have been unjustly detained and arrested?
2. What proactive policies is the EU considering that would strengthen human rights in Iran and ensure that Iranians enjoy the freedom to assemble and exercise their right to free speech in future protests without repercussions from the regime?
3. What steps has the EEAS taken regarding the cases of the political prisoners who have been sentenced to death after the November protests, including Amir Hossein Moradi, Mohammad Rajabi and Saeed Tamjidi, and what has it done in response to the case of Ali Younesi?
4. The influence and power of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is expanding. The US has listed the IRGC as a terrorist organisation. Will the EU follow suit, taking into account the IRGC's role in the bloody crackdown on non-violent protesters in November? How does the EU view the growing grip on power by the IRGC in Iran in terms of human rights and EU-Iran bilateral relations?
5. Will the VP/HR consider taking steps to impose targeted personal sanctions against those responsible for severe human rights violations, sending a clear and decisive message to Iran that the EU opposes this situation?

Submitted: 01/07/2020

Lapses: 02/10/2020