

Question for written answer E-016106/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Marietje Schaake (ALDE) and Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Tunisia sentences six men to prison for homosexuality

On 10 December 2015, six young men were arrested in their university dormitory in Kairouan, Tunisia. Upon their arrest, they were subjected to anal examinations. Based on Article 230 of the Personal Status Code banning sodomy, they were each sentenced to three years in prison, the maximum sentence under Tunisian law, for committing homosexual acts. After serving their prison sentence, the six men face banishment from their city, Kairouan, for five years¹.

Are the VP/HR and/or the European External Action Service (EEAS) aware of the recent sentencing in Tunisia, and what is their assessment of it?

What actions are the VP/HR and the EEAS undertaking in Tunisia, in light of the goals set by the Commission in the recently published list of actions to advance LGBTI equality, which includes the goal of combating discrimination against LGBTI people in third countries through projects funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights²?

How do the VP/HR and/or EEAS plan to address the abovementioned developments in their encounters with their Tunisian counterparts?

¹ <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/12/tunisia-lgbt-community-fight-for-equal-rights.html>

² http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/lgbti_actionlist_en.pdf