

Question for written answer E-015085/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Marian Harkin (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights violations in Saudi Arabia

The European Union has adopted and approved strong guidelines on freedom of expression, and further considers freedom of religion as a core value and basic human right for all. However, Saudi Arabia does very little to respect those rights, and one of its most prominent clerics and human rights defenders, Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr, now faces imminent execution for his exercise of the above-mentioned rights.

What action is the EEAS planning to take on these issues, with a view ultimately to achieving the following:

1. securing a halt to the execution of Sheikh Nimr and ensuring his release from prison, together with the dropping of all charges against him;
2. ensuring that peaceful dissidents and opposition leaders, regardless of their religious orientation, are not prosecuted and do not face violations of their human rights?