

Question for written answer E-002932/2024

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

Rule 144

Villy Søvndal (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The continued imprisonment of a European advocate for human rights in Bahrain

Danish-Bahraini citizen Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja has been imprisoned since 2011 for his role in pro-democracy protests and his advocacy for political reform in Bahrain. In 2012, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention¹ concluded that Mr Al-Khawaja's detention was arbitrary and in contravention of international law and called for his 'immediate release' and 'enforceable right to compensation'.

1. With reference to the adoption of the urgent Parliament resolution of 15 December 2022 on the case of human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja in Bahrain², what has the Commission done to raise the case of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja and all other human rights defenders in the country both publicly and privately and to demand their unconditional release?
2. Can the Commission confirm its commitment to ensuring the release of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja and all other human rights defenders in the country before 16 December 2024? What diplomatic actions are being taken by the Commission to secure their release?
3. In the light of the diplomatic efforts made for the release of Chinese-Swedish dissident Gui Minhai, including a public statement calling for the release of Gui Minhai by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) in 2018³, will the Commission support a public statement from the VP/HR calling for the unconditional and immediate release of Mr Al-Khawaja?

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¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/730786?ln=en&v=pdf>.

² OJ C 177, 17.5.2023, p. 105.

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/node/39919_en.