

Question for written answer E-004105/2025

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

Rule 144

Per Clausen (The Left)

Subject: Bahrain's arbitrary detention of EU citizen Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja and the consequences for relations with the EU and for regular prison visits by the EU Ambassador to Bahrain

In a letter sent from Jau prison in Bahrain, dated 16 October, Danish citizen and political prisoner Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja wrote to the Commission President, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), and the Special Representative for Human Rights. In the letter he asked whether the EU considered him to be a human rights defender, an EU-citizen, and whether it agreed with the UN that his detention was arbitrary.

In the letter, he also asked if the EU should consequently demand his release.

1. Could the VP/HR please confirm that as long as Bahrain continues to detain EU citizens arbitrarily as political prisoners, such as in the case of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, thereby clearly violating human rights, there will be no progress made on visa waivers, strategic partnerships, trade or similar negotiations?
2. Will the EU Ambassador to Bahrain be instructed to regularly visit Mr Al-Khawaja in jail, to monitor his situation and, if necessary, criticise the Bahraini authorities?
3. Does the EU consider Mr Al-Khawaja to be both a human rights defender and an EU-citizen, does it agree with the UN opinion of 2012¹ clearly describing the detention of Mr Al-Khawaja as arbitrary, and will it demand his release?

Submitted: 17.10.2025

¹ <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/WGAD/2012/6>