

Question for written answer E-004112/2025

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

Rule 144

Thierry Mariani (Pfe)

Subject: The case of Tayeb Benabderrahmane

Mr Tayeb Benabderrahmane, a French national, was sentenced to death in absentia in Qatar in May 2023 following a secret, blatantly unfair trial.

In its Opinion No 28/2025, adopted on 8 April 2025, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded that he had been arbitrarily detained, tortured and stripped of his right to a fair trial. The UN called on Qatar to open an independent investigation, prosecute those responsible and compensate the victim.

These conclusions are extremely grave and call for a firm EU response. What is at stake here is not only the protection of an EU citizen – the victim of a flagrant human rights violation – but also the EU's credibility as a global player committed to upholding international law.

1. What action does the VP/HR intend to take with the Qatari authorities to ensure that the UN Working Group's recommendations concerning Mr Tayeb Benabderrahmane are acted on swiftly and effectively?
2. Does the VP/HR intend to make the EU's economic and political relations with Qatar conditional on the upholding of fundamental rights and proper adherence to the UN recommendations?

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