

**Question for written answer E-004195/2025**

**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: EU citizens imprisoned in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries

In her answer to question E-002427/2025<sup>1</sup>, Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) Kaja Kallas highlights the Commission's engagement in human rights dialogue with the GCC while avoiding any mention of specific mechanisms to secure the release of EU citizens imprisoned in GCC member states on political grounds.

We again draw attention to the case of Danish-Bahraini citizen and human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja who has been imprisoned in Bahrain since 2011. As stated in the VP/HR's response to the previous question, the defending of human rights is a core value of the EU. His case has been repeatedly raised by the Parliament.

1. Will the Commission set the release of EU citizens imprisoned on political grounds as a prerequisite for moving forward in trade and strategic partnership agreements with the GCC countries?
2. If not, how does it justify proceeding with negotiations while EU citizens remain imprisoned, in contradiction of core EU values?
3. Will the Commission guarantee that any agreements will include binding and enforceable human rights conditionality clauses, including the possibility of cancellation in case of violations, and how will it ensure transparency and accountability in how it raises individual cases so that Parliament and the public can be assured that EU citizens' rights are being effectively protected?

Submitted: 24.10.2025

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002427-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002427-ASW_EN.html)