

**Question for written answer E-004644/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Follow up on the detention of Saudi human rights defender Abdulrahman al-Khalidi in Bulgaria

Abdulrahman al-Khalidi, a Saudi human rights defender, sought asylum in Bulgaria in October 2021 and has been detained at the Busmantsi Detention Centre for over four years. His asylum application was rejected, and a deportation order to Saudi Arabia is in place, where he faces serious risks such as possible execution due to his activism about breaches of prisoner's rights. A study by Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) published on 12 June 2025 highlighted his case as a key example of the use of detention in transnational repression.

1. Does the Commission consider that extended detention in this case, and the risk of return to Saudi Arabia, comply with EU law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Reception Conditions Directive¹, the Asylum Procedures Regulation², and the Returns Directive³?
2. When was the last time the Commission visited the Busmantsi detention facility, and how frequently does the Commission conduct such visits?
3. If the Commission has recently visited the Busmantsi facility, what observations did it make and what follow-up actions does it intend to take to ensure Bulgaria's practice aligns with EU standards on the treatment of detained asylum seekers and the principle of non-refoulement?

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¹ OJ L, 2024/1346, 22.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1346/oj>.

² OJ L, 2024/1348, 22.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1348/oj>.

³ OJ L 348, 24.12.2008, pp. 98–107, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/115/oj>.