

Question for written answer E-004828/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Ignazio Roberto Marino (Verts/ALE), Leoluca Orlando (Verts/ALE), Ilaria Salis (The Left), Mimmo Lucano (The Left), Emma Fourreau (The Left), Manon Aubry (The Left), Damien Carême (The Left), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left), Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE), Pernando Barrena Arza (The Left)

Subject: The expulsion of Imam Mohamed Shahin and upholding freedom of expression and the principle of non-refoulement

On 24 November 2025, the Italian Ministry of the Interior ordered the deportation of Mohamed Shahin, an imam who holds a residency permit and has lived in Italy for more than 20 years¹. The Ministry of the Interior had classed Mr Shahin as a potential terror threat because of some public statements he had made and used these comments to justify his expulsion. It seems that political pressure from certain exponents played a part in the decision to deport Imam Shahin, and that this process relied heavily on – and potentially misused – existing counter-terrorism powers.

Because he opposes the Egyptian Government, Imam Shahin risks being persecuted and arbitrarily detained if he is deported to his country of origin.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that expelling someone on the basis of their public statements is a course of action that is compatible with the principle of freedom of expression enshrined in Article 11 of the CFR and with the Member State obligations laid down in Article 2 TEU?
2. How will the Commission ensure that Italy complies with the principle of non-refoulement laid down in Article 19(2) of the CFR and in the EU laws governing asylum and international protection?
3. Given that politicians are suspected of having interfered in Mr Shahin's deportation, will the Commission use the annual rule of law mechanism and other such tools to look into this case?

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¹ https://torino.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/25_novembre_28/l-imam-espulso-a-torino-non-sostengo-amas-e-rispetto-le-leggi-in-egitto-verrei-arrestato-torturato-e-ucciso-14990f84-c5b1-4a2a-8eea-dcf34fd9fxlk.shtml.