

Question for written answer E-003066/2026

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

Rule 144

Ana Catarina Mendes (S&D)

Subject: Urgent EU action to protect Naâma Asfari and Sahrawi prisoners

Detained in deplorable conditions in a Moroccan prison since 2010, Sahrawi human rights defender Naâma Asfari has been held in isolation for the past few days. As a form of protest, he began an indefinite hunger strike at least six weeks ago and has already lost ten kilos. Along with 17 other activists for the Sahrawi cause, Asfari is facing a lengthy prison sentence for taking part – alongside thousands of Sahrawis – in peaceful protests. According to the defence lawyers, the convictions are based on confessions extracted under torture. The Moroccan authorities are unmoved by Asfari's pleas to transfer prisoners to Western Sahara, where they can receive family visits – something that has been blocked since 2019. It has been at least two days since there was any news from Naâma Asfari, who has not made his usual weekly telephone call.

In light of international humanitarian law and the human rights that the Moroccan State is bound to uphold, and given the EU's international and economic ties with the Kingdom of Morocco, what urgent steps are being taken to save Naâma Asfari's life and enforce the rights of Sahrawi prisoners?

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