

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002337/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left)
(11 June 2025)

Subject: Illegal detention of political activists in Serbia

On 14 March, 2025, the Serbian authorities arrested six activists, including five members of the Free Citizens Movement (PSG) and a student activist. They were detained on politically motivated charges based on questionable evidence, including an illegally obtained audio recording and state-controlled media footage. Three have been released under house arrest, while the others remain in pre-trial detention. These arrests represent political repression, violating national laws and international human rights standards, including the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Serbia is a signatory.

1. What actions is the Commission taking to support the immediate release of the unlawfully detained individuals in Serbia, and what further actions are being considered?
2. What concrete actions is the Commission taking in response to the actions of the Serbian Government, especially given that Serbia is a candidate country to the EU?
3. Do the actions by the Serbian Government constitute a breach of the stabilisation and association agreement between Serbia and the EU, in particular with regard to Article 2 of the General Principles, and if so, what actions does the Commission envisage in relation to the agreement?

Submitted: 11.6.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(1 August 2025)

The Commission has reacted publicly to the developments concerning the detention of the six activists, who are currently under house arrest.

The Commission expects the fundamental rights of all citizens to be upheld and that the conditions of detention are compatible with respect for fundamental rights including human dignity. The Commission also expects respect of the legal frameworks on criminal proceedings.

The Commission remains firmly committed to monitoring the upholding of the rule of law, the respect of fundamental rights, and the independence of the judiciary in the context of accession negotiations with Serbia, in particular under Chapter 23 (judiciary and fundamental rights).

The Commission will continue to engage with the authorities and other stakeholders — including political actors and civil society — to encourage them to work together to advance the reforms needed for Serbia's European future, particularly in strengthening the rule of law and protecting fundamental rights.
