

21st of January 2015

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

European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels

Call for urgent action in the case of Saudi Arabian writer Raif Badawi from MEP's

Dear Madam High Representative,
Dear Federica Mogherini,

As you are no doubt aware, a tragic and barbaric abuse of human rights is currently taking place in Saudi Arabia supported by the judicial system. The writer and blogger Raif Badawi has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and 1000 lashes for starting a website and expressing his critical views of religious authorities.

As of this writing Raif Badawi has already been publicly flogged once, specifically on the 9th of January when 50 lashes were administered. A further 50 lashes were scheduled for Friday the 16th of January. These were however suspended following a medical examination which found that Mr Badawi was physically unable to sustain further abuse.

Mr Badawi therefore still faces the gruelling prospect of a further 950 lashes. Those will be applied when his doctors may deem that his wounds are sufficiently healed to allow his body to endure further torture.

A formal Written Question to the High Representative has already been lodged. However, owing to the urgent nature of Mr Badawi's desperate case we, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament have deemed it necessary to write directly to you and to ask you to take immediate action on behalf of the European Union and its member states.

We therefore ask you to;

- Condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the treatment of Raif Badawi
- Ask the Saudi Arabian authorities that the remaining sentence be immediately suspended and ultimately revoked
- State the actions that you, the EEAS and the Commission in general have taken or are going to take regarding this case

Kind regards,

Agnes JONGERIUS
Alessia Maria MOSCA
Ana Maria GOMES
Ana-Claudia TAPARDEL
Anders VISTISEN
Ángela VALLINA DE LA NOVAL
Angelika MLINAR
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Bart STAES
Beatriz BECERRA BASTERRECHEA
Bodil CEBALLOS
Carlos COELHO
Catherine BEARDER
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Charles TANNOCK
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Clara Eugenia AGUILERA GARCÍA
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Claude ROLIN
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Juan Carlos GIRAUTA VIDAL
Jude KIRTON-DARLING
Julie WARD
Jutta STEINRUCK
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