

Ms. Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the Union for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the Commission

Dear High Representative,

The signatory members of the European Parliament would like to raise the issue of proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations and actions stated in European Parliament Urgency Resolutions.

On the case of the dire Human Rights situation in Bahrain, only in the past year the European Parliament has issued two Urgency Resolutions, one on [9 July 2015](#) on the case of Nabeel Rajab and another on [4 February 2016](#) on the death penalty against Mohamad Ramadan. Both these texts display several of the human rights violations ongoing in the Kingdom of Bahrain, such as the lack of freedom of expression, the violent repression against Human Rights Defenders and civil society or the issue of the death penalty and lack of due process in the judicial courts.

Further to these texts, the previous legislature of the European Parliament also adopted five Urgency Resolutions related to Human Rights in Bahrain: European Parliament Resolution on Bahrain, 27 October 2011 ([P7_TA\(2011\)0475](#)); European Parliament Resolution on Human Rights violations in Bahrain, 15 March 2012 ([P7_TA \(2012\)0094](#)); European Parliament Resolution on the Human Rights situation in Bahrain, 17 January 2013 ([P7_TA\(2013\)0032](#)); European Parliament Resolution on the Human Rights situation in Bahrain, 12 September 2013 ([P7_TA\(2013\)0390](#)) and European Parliament Resolution on the cases of Nabeel Rajab, Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja and Ibrahim Sharif of 6 February 2014 ([P7_TA\(2014\)0109](#)). In addition, the EU has adopted guidelines on [Human Rights Defenders](#) and on the [Freedom of expression Online and Offline](#), amongst others, to further protect and channel human rights policies in its external actions. The recently adopted [EU Action Plan on Democracy and Human Rights 2015-2019](#) also lists the areas of concern regarding human rights protection and action, and how the EU plans to implement these in its foreign policy. More precisely, points 9, 7,11,14,15,24,25,28 and 30 of the EU Action plan all speak about the protection of freedoms and rights in domains which directly concern Bahrain.

Despite the extensive texts adopted by the EU, and its commitment to “[keep Human Rights policies at the heart of the EU’s agenda](#)”, violent repression of peaceful dissent is escalating in the Gulf region, particularly in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The Bahraini government is revoking nationalities as a speedy rate, with over 280 Bahrainis already affected since 2012, and is using wide anti-terror laws to criminalise and severely repress peaceful dissent and calls for democratic reform. The situation is even more extreme in Saudi Arabia, where the rate of death sentences and executions has sky-rocketed lately, including for minor offenders, despite severe flaws in the judicial proceedings. The complicated regional context, the wars in Yemen and Syria and the highly tense relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia make the Human Rights situation in the Gulf ever more challenging, but this also means closer attention should be paid to avoid an escalation of violations, repression and radicalisation.

As expressed by the above-mentioned resolutions, the European Parliament is gravely concerned about this trend and the continuous violations of Human Rights in the Gulf.

We are gravely concerned about the escalations of violence and repression in Bahrain, and as concerned representatives of European citizens, we wish to see such violations of Human Rights come to an end. We therefore ask the EEAS to detail what steps has it taken to implement the calls made by the EP on these human rights issues in Bahrain. We would like to be informed more frequently and in further depth about the dialogues between the EEAS and the Bahraini government, including informally, and about what progress (if any) is achieved in the area of Human Rights.

Further, the EU Action Plan is concrete as to the priorities it seeks to establish and work on in the EU's external policies. However, the Action Plan is vague when it comes to the bodies and sub-bodies responsible for the implementation of such actions and does not give further details on the follow up of its content. We, as members of the European Parliament, would like to be further involved and regularly informed about the development and implementation of the above-mentioned points included in the EU Action Plan, which are significantly relevant to the Human Rights situation in Bahrain.

Best regards,

Members of the European Parliament

Ignazio Corrao

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Eleonora Evi

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