

**Question for written answer E-005339/2018**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE) and Gérard Deprez (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Executions and arrests in Iran

The recent wave of arrests and executions of lawyers and human rights activists by the Iranian regime comes against the backdrop of a longstanding political and religious dictatorship that afflicts the nation. The rising tide of civil society demonstrations and protests has been further prompted by unemployment, inflation and an increasingly youthful population keen to experience a regime that upholds personal freedom. According to local sources, in September the Iranian authorities executed at least 31 people, many of them young people, including nine political prisoners.

Iran is one of the world's worst offenders when it comes to executing minors, something that is strictly forbidden under international law and that has been roundly condemned by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Given that the EU currently maintains an open dialogue with Iran:

- 1) What measures do you intend to take to encourage Iran to call a halt to the illegal imprisonment of political opponents and human rights protesters?
- 2) By the same token, will you be calling for an end to the execution of minors?