

**Question for written answer E-000049/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

Hans-Olaf Henkel (ECR), Bernd Kölmel (ECR) and Joachim Starbatty (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Illegal detention of a German journalist in Venezuela

We would like to express our deep concern over the illegal detention in November 2018 of the German journalist Billy Six by Venezuela's military counterintelligence services. What is more, it is deplorable that he was charged with rebellion and espionage by a military court with no proper investigation, no respect of the presumption of innocence and no access to a fair trial by a competent and impartial tribunal. What is more, we are alarmed by his recent hunger strike and the fact that he has contracted dengue fever, thus being exposed to the risk of severe health complications.

1. How will the EU safeguard the wellbeing and fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, of its citizens who have been unlawfully charged in Venezuela as a result of intolerance and hostility towards critical coverage of its government?
2. Will the EU officially rally international support in order to obtain the release of Mr Six, given the fact that there is no update on his condition and German diplomats have not been allowed to visit him, which constitutes a violation of his rights guaranteed under international law?