

Question for written answer E-001006/2024

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Refusal of entry and expulsion of Stefano Rebor, President of the NGO Music for Peace, by the Egyptian authorities in Cairo

On 26 March, Stefano Rebor, President of the NGO Music for Peace, was arbitrarily denied entry and expelled by the Egyptian authorities at Cairo airport, where he had travelled in order to then oversee the consignment of 60 tonnes of humanitarian aid (mainly medicines) destined for the Gaza Strip.

Rebor was taken behind closed doors and deprived of his personal effects and mobile phone. Later – and only after the intervention of a few politicians whom he had managed to call immediately after his detention – he was led back to arrivals. In the end, he was expelled and repatriated on a flight to Italy on the official grounds of ‘serious national security concerns’.

This is only the latest in a series of serious repressive acts that Egypt has waged against Rebor from Music for Peace and other NGOs. Before this, in 2018 – despite the ambassador stepping in – Egypt denied Rebor entry for the first time, providing no justification.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Vice-President / High Representative (VP/HR) aware of the way in which the Egyptian authorities have treated Stefano Rebor, without providing justification?
2. What action does the VP/HR intend to take to end repressive action like this and see to it that Stefano Rebor is granted entry to Egypt?

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