

**Question for written answer E-001145/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU response to the continuing arrests of political opponents by the Tunisian Government

Since 2021, democracy in Tunisia has deteriorated significantly¹. On 11 February 2023, the Tunisian Government opened an investigation against 17 individuals on a charge of 'conspiracy against state security'². Between 11 and 25 February 2023, eight more opposition leaders were arrested by Tunisian security forces on the same charge. Two of those eight, including Chaima Issa, have since been released. On 24 March 2024, the Financial Times³ reported that the EU was planning to contribute EUR 164.5 million to the Tunisian security forces.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether or not it – either through direct or indirect management – plans to provide funding to the Tunisian security forces in the coming years, what the exact amount is, and from which budgets this will be funded?
2. What mechanism has the Commission established to ensure that it does not become complicit in unlawful and politically motivated arrests or detentions, deportations, violence and other human rights violations that have recently been linked to the Tunisian security forces?
3. How is the EU responding to the continuing arrests of political opponents in Tunisia and the other restrictions placed on them, such as arbitrary travel bans, and what measures are the Commission, the European External Action Service and the EU Delegation taking to secure their unconditional release?

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¹ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/free-them-all/2024/visible-and-invisible-bars>.

² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/02/tunisia-release-and-drop-charges-against-opposition-activists-arbitrarily-detained-for-a-year/>.

³ <https://www.ft.com/content/17c4cb4f-410d-49ed-80ce-278ed597dd0a>.