

FORM FOR TABLING A QUESTION FOR
WRITTEN ANSWER (Rule 130)

Select only one addressee:

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL

VICE-PRESIDENT / HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

COMMISSION

Priority question

AUTHOR(S):

SUBJECT:
(please specify)

The case of Ahmed Douma and other political prisoners in Egypt

TEXT:

On 4 February 2015, prominent activist Ahmed Douma was sentenced to life in prison, together with 229 other secular activists. All, except Ahmed Douma, were tried in absentia. The court also sentenced in absentia 39 juveniles to ten years in prison each. Ahmed Douma is already serving a three year sentence for breaking a law regulating protests, together with Ahmed Maher and Mohamed Adel.*

The ruling of 4 February can be appealed. It is the heaviest sentence yet against secular activists who were important in organizing the protests in 2011 that called for justice, freedom and opportunities and that ultimately forced then President Mubarak to step down.

1. Is the HR/VP aware of the case of Ahmed Douma?
2. Does the HR/VP agree that these mass trials and excessive sentences violate human rights?
3. What has the HR/VP done to address the cases of these political prisoners?

* On 30 January 2015, Members of the European Parliament wrote a letter to the VP/HR addressing their case.

Signature(s):

Date: 11/2/2015