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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell

on behalf of the European Commission

(3.5.2021)

The EU is following closely the case of Mr Monjib and has taken positive note of the recent judicial decision ordering his provisional release.

Democracy and human rights are essential components of the EU’s foreign policy and of its dialogue with partner countries. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are a key component of EU bilateral relations with Morocco, as well reflected in the joint EU-Morocco Political Declaration of 27 June 2019.

In addition to political dialogue with the authorities and regular dialogue with the civil society, the EU provides financial assistance to institutions and civil society organisations and human rights defenders, with a view to supporting the reform of the judiciary in line with international standards and the country’s 2011 Constitution. The dedicated Sub-Committee on Human rights within the framework of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement last met on 25 March 2021 and reviewed i.a. the situation regarding freedom of expression.

The EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) training is conducted in a framework designed to ensure that the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are consistently and systematically integrated as a crosscutting issue across all programme activities. Ensuring compliance with human right standards is one of their main goals.