

Question for written answer E-008675/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Amnesty for political prisoners in Equatorial Guinea

The decree signed this week by the dictator of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang, granting an amnesty to all individuals convicted of, or facing trial for, political offences there could be regarded as a step towards improving the country's human rights record. However, the lack of transparency on the part of the Obiang government regarding the number of these so-called political prisoners and the definition of 'political crimes' raises suspicions about the true nature of the decree.

1. Will the Vice-President / High Representative (VP/HR) monitor the implementation of the decree and ensure that Obiang's dictatorship is held accountable for all violations, torture and arbitrary detention suffered by 'political prisoners'?
2. Within this framework, will the VP/HR encourage the Equatoguinean Government to hold discussions with political opponents, including those in exile, on national reconciliation?
3. What measures has the VP/HR taken with a view to the liberation, under the aforementioned decree, of Cipriano Nguema (who was abducted in Nigeria in December 2013) and of Ticiano Obama Nkogo, Timoteo Asumu, Antonio Nconi Sima, Mercedes Obono Nconi and Emilia Abeme Nzo (who were arrested on 27 September 2014 and sentenced to between 15 and 27 years' imprisonment by a military court, without their lawyers being present, for allegedly threatening state security)?