

**Question for written answer E-006964/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Detention of a Swedish citizen in Ethiopia

Fikru Maru, a Swedish citizen of Ethiopian origin and one of Sweden's leading heart surgeons, has been arbitrarily detained in Ethiopia since May 2013. He has been at Hudiksvalls hospital in Sweden since 2012, and founded Ethiopia's first specialist cardio-vascular hospital with funding from Swedfund, a venture capital firm run by the Swedish state for investments in developing countries.

On a visit to Ethiopia in 2010, Fikru Maru was stopped at customs carrying medical equipment, and asked to pay bribes in order to pass. He refused to pay, which later led to his arrest, but the charges were then dropped. In connection with a state inquiry into corruption involving Ethiopia's customs minister, Fikru Maru and a number of others were taken into custody in May 2013 for allegedly having bribed the customs minister to drop the charges levelled against him in 2010.

Since that time, Fikru Maru's fundamental right to a fair and speedy trial has not been upheld. And although he has been detained for more than three years, no court has yet ruled on the case.

Is the EU delegation in Addis Ababa aware of the detention of Fikru Maru?

What is the delegation doing to ensure that Fikru Maru is given a fair and speedy trial?