

**Question for written answer E-001560/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Human rights situation in Rwanda

On 20 October 2017, the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) suspended a visit to Rwanda 'due to a series of obstructions imposed by authorities, such as accessing some places of detention, confidentiality of certain interviews and over concerns that some interviewees could face reprisals'. This is only the third time in 10 years that the SPT has suspended a mission. The suspension of the SPT visit comes just weeks after a report on torture in Rwanda, detailing widespread and systematic torture by security services in the country.

The human rights situation in Rwanda is rapidly deteriorating. After winning the presidential elections in August 2017 with 98.79 % of the vote, an election criticised strongly by international rights groups but only mildly by the EU, President Kagame is stepping up the repression of dissent by jailing political opponents, launching an aggressive campaign against international human rights organisations and obstructing the work of key UN human rights bodies such as the SPT. The EU should not remain silent when it comes to what is happening in Rwanda today.

1. What action does the European External Action Service (EEAS) plan to take on the increasing number of human rights violations in the country?
2. What is the reason behind the EEAS' lack of public criticism of the human rights situation in Rwanda?