

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2235/08
by Glenys Kinnock (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Pastor Fernando Kutino

Would the Commission please clarify whether it is aware of the cases of Pastor Fernando Kutino, Timothee Bompere and Junior Nganda, who were arrested in May 2006 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and sentenced to 20 years in prison. There has been widespread concern expressed about the evidence brought against them, and about the manner in which the trial was conducted. The trial was reopened in December 2007, in large part due to international concern about the case. Would the Commission confirm whether it is aware of allegations of torture in the treatment of Mr Nganda? Has the Commission, under EU Guidelines on the Use of Torture, made representations on behalf of Mr Nganda and urged the Congolese government to recognise that information obtained under torture should not be used as evidence?