

**Question for written answer E-005134/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Raimon Obiols (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Judicial proceedings against Victoire Ingabire

In October 2012, Victoire Ingabire was sentenced to eight years' prison in Rwanda at the end of judicial proceedings which were not transparent and in which there were several irregularities.

The public prosecutor's office, considering the sentence to be too lenient, initiated appeal proceedings, and the case was reopened before the Supreme Court in April 2013. The public prosecutor has called for a prison sentence of 25 years on the basis that Ingabire had fomented popular armed revolt against the current government.

Victoire Ingabire, who was last year nominated for the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize, is a political activist who used to live in the Netherlands and who in 2006 was elected Chairperson of the Unified Democratic Forces (UDF-Inkingi). In 2010, Ingabire decided to return to Rwanda to stand in the elections, but since her return she has been subjected to arbitrary accusations and abuse which culminated in her being placed under house arrest between May and October 2010 and then being imprisoned. Since returning to her country, Ingabire has been unable to register her political party and, owing to a government boycott, has been unable to participate in the political life of the country.

In view of this situation and the new proceedings which are being initiated against Ingabire, can the Vice-President/High Representative state:

1. whether she will consider issuing a communication denouncing the lack of transparency in the justice system in Rwanda?
2. what other measures the Commission could take in response to the current political situation in Rwanda?