

**Question for written answer E-004495/2018  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Julie Ward (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Arrests of Biafran women protesters in Nigeria

On 24 August 2018, human rights organisations reported the arrest and detention of 114 Owerri women protesters in Nigeria. They were peacefully demonstrating in favour of the independence of the Biafra people, and demanding to be told the truth regarding the whereabouts of Nnamdi Kanu, IPOB (Indigenous People of Biafra) leader. The women protesters were later released.

These arrests occurred in the context of a very hostile climate against Biafran protesters, who have been exercising their human rights to freedom of opinion and freedom of expression.

1. Was the VP/HR aware of the arrest and detention of these women protesters, and if so did the European External Action Service demand their immediate release?
2. What steps is the EU Delegation in Abuja taking to engage with their Nigerian counterparts to encourage an open political dialogue on the Biafran issue?