

Question for written answer E-005271/2020

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Assita Kanko (ECR)

Subject: Suppression of Oromo protests in Ethiopia

Protests by the Oromo people flared up after the murder of the iconic Oromo singer Hachalu Hundessa on 29 June 2020. During the crackdown by the Ethiopian authorities on the protests, more than 60 people were killed in the federated state of Oromia and thousands were arrested, including journalists and opposition leaders. Many of them have been charged with assault. Opposition leader Jawar Mohammed has even been charged with terrorism offences. The elections, which were intended to mark a major step away from authoritarianism to democracy, were scheduled for August 2020, but have been indefinitely postponed by the Ethiopian Government. Many fear that, as a result, the transition has been sidelined.

What steps is the VP/HR taking to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Ethiopia, as well as dialogue on the question of democracy and equality for the Oromo people?