

**Question for written answer E-000915/2021**

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

Rule 138

**Brando Benifei (S&D)**

Subject: Detention of Boubacar Sèye in Senegal

Spanish/Senegalese citizen Boubacar Sèye, chair of the association for migrant rights Horizon Sans Frontières, was arrested on 15 January by the Senegalese authorities at Dakar International Airport, while returning to Senegal from Spain. He is accused of 'spreading fake news' and is currently detained in Cap Manuel prison in Dakar. Mr Sèye had been summoned by investigators for questioning regarding statements made by him on several occasions, both during conferences and, for example, in the French news magazine 'L'Obs', but also for asking the Senegalese government directly about the non-transparent management of EU funds to combat illegal immigration, and to shed light on the tragedy of the drowning of numerous migrants off the Senegalese coast.

In the light of this information and of Mr Sèye's precarious state of health, all the more so in the midst of this pandemic, can the Vice-President / High Representative answer the following questions:

1. Is he aware of this case?
2. What measures will he take to shed light on the situation and call for Mr Sèye's release?