

Question for written answer E-001403/2021/rev.1

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Protests in Senegal against Macky Sall

The arrest of Senegalese opposition leader Ousmane Sonko on 3 March 2021 sparked a wave of protests which resulted in at least 8 deaths, hundreds of injuries, and violent clashes between police and protestors across the country. While the opposition is calling for protests to continue over the coming days, army tanks are patrolling the streets of Dakar and Macky Sall's government has ordered all schools to close until 15 March.

1. What is the Vice-President/High Representative's stance on the Senegal protests?
2. What action is the Commission taking both politically and diplomatically to help bring an end to the violence, de-escalate the conflict and protect civilians? Will the Vice-President/High Representative join those calling for an independent investigation into what actually took place during the protests?
3. What is the EU doing to promote human rights (such as the right to protest) and democracy in Senegal? What guarantees are there that the EU funds allocated to Senegal will serve these objectives effectively?