

Question for written answer E-003300/2023

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: The current situation in Madagascar

Madagascar is under attack from within.

The campaign for the presidential elections began with events that polluted the democratic course of the country: the authorities ordered the police to fire tear gas at people protesting peacefully. This behaviour risks taking Madagascar onto dangerous ground and leading it towards a totalitarian regime.

The situation is deteriorating day by day, entering a spiral of violence.

In a joint open letter, the candidates in the presidential elections denounced the institutional coup d'état of former President Andry Rajoelina, drawing the attention of the international community and the Madagascan people to the current situation in Madagascar.

In addition to the recent and constant attacks on Madagascar's democracy, poverty has reached a record level, with more than 80 % of the population living below the poverty line – defined by the World Bank as USD 2.15 a day – generating deep discontent in the country.

In the light of recent events, how does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to intervene to ensure that the Madagascan authorities safeguard citizens, human rights, freedom of speech and the rule of law, and guarantee the democratic conduct of the electoral process?

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