

**Question for written answer P-007323/2017**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Claude Rolin (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Arrest of Mr Timothée Mbuya, lawyer and human rights activist in the Democratic Republic of Congo

On 31 July 2017, the Congolese security forces arrested Mr. Timothée Mbuya, a lawyer and human rights activist in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who was in Lubumbashi for a peaceful march organised by civil society to submit a memorandum to the Independent National Electoral Commission of Upper Katanga calling for the publication of the electoral calendar as agreed on 31 December 2016. Mr Mbuya and other defenders of human rights in the DRC were accused of provocation and incitement to disobedience and sent to Kasapa, Lubumbashi's central prison. Mr Mbuya has since been sentenced to twelve months in prison.

I strongly condemn the arbitrary arrest and detention of Mr Mbuya which are more than clearly intended to intimidate those who stand up for human rights at this time of electoral crisis in the DRC.

Will the Commission call on the Congolese authorities to release Mr Mbuya immediately and unconditionally, to cease all judicial harassment of him, and to guarantee his physical and psychological well-being at all times?