

**Priority question for written answer P-000064/2023
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 situation of the Senegalese journalist Pape Alé Niang, and more generally, freedom of the press in Senegal

In Senegal, the freedom of the press is increasingly threatened. The Senegalese investigative journalist Pape Alé Niang, who runs the news website 'Dakarmatin.com', was arrested in November 2022, and then again in December, for having written articles criticising the Senegalese authorities.

Mr Alé Niang suffers from respiratory problems and his health has deteriorated during his detention. He has gone on hunger strike to demand his release. He has gained the support of Reporters Without Borders, who published an open letter on 6 January 2023 calling for his release¹.

His arrest was not the first of its kind. Other journalists, such as Adama Gaye, have also suffered the wrath of the Senegalese authorities. This situation shows that freedom of the press and freedom of speech are deteriorating in Senegal.

1. Has the EU representation approached the Senegalese authorities to secure the release of Mr Pape Alé Niang?
2. What measures is the EU planning to take in response to the deteriorating respect for fundamental rights, including freedom of the press, in Senegal?

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¹ <https://rsf.org/en/78-african-journalists-urge-senegal-free-reporter-respect-press-freedom>