

**Question for written answer E-002697/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Rwanda: opposition leader arrested

On 21 June 2025, Victoire Ingabire, a Rwandan opposition politician and former political prisoner, was arrested in Kigali while trying to peacefully participate in a public meeting held by her party, DALFA-Umurinzi. According to Human Rights Watch, this arrest is just one example of the many acts of harassment, acts of intimidation and restrictions targeting critics in Rwanda.

The July 2024 presidential election was held in a climate of political repression and without any genuine competition, with Paul Kagame being re-elected with 99.18 % of the vote. The EU failed to express any criticism when confronted with a result reminiscent of the Soviet era. Against that backdrop, this new arrest illustrates the Kagame regime's shift towards authoritarianism.

Given the close partnership between the European Union and Rwanda, particularly in development cooperation, and the commitments made by Rwanda in the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and the Samoa Agreement:

1. What steps has the Commission taken – or what steps does it intend to take – to call for the immediate release of Victoire Ingabire?
2. What measures does the Commission plan to put in place to ensure that Rwanda fulfils its international commitments on human rights, political freedoms and democratic pluralism?
3. Does the Commission plan to make some EU aid contingent on tangible progress in upholding political and civic rights?

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