

**Question for written answer E-003119/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
René Aust (ESN), Tomasz Froelich (ESN)

Subject: German citizen abducted in Somalia

According to the press¹, in 2018, German nurse Sonja Nientiet was abducted while on a humanitarian mission in Somalia and has since been held hostage by an Islamist group (most likely Al-Shabaab). An operation planned by the German authorities to free her apparently failed to take place because of a decision made by the then Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs. Although it is some time now that the case has remained unresolved and Nientiet is likely struggling, there is little discussion about it in the public sphere. Somalia is a priority country for EU development cooperation and security engagement, including through the European Union Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia) and European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia).

1. What measures has the Commission taken or supported to date to help clarify or resolve this case?
2. To what extent does it believe that the EU has a legal responsibility towards citizens of EU Member States abducted on humanitarian missions in third countries such as Somalia?
3. How much consideration does it give to EU citizen abduction cases when planning and implementing its foreign, security and development policies in Somalia?

Submitted: 28.7.2025

¹ <https://www.stern.de/gesellschaft/geisel-in-somalia-seit-sieben-jahren---wer-holt-sonja-nientiet-heim--35787996.html>