

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004837/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Mimmo Lucano (The Left)
(5 December 2025)

Subject: Fulgencio Obiang Esono

On 18 September 2018, Fulgencio Obiang Esono, an engineer and Italian national of Equatorial Guinean origin, became unreachable during a work trip to Togo. He was abducted — probably by Equatorial Guinean services — and charged with having attempted a coup d'état in 2017. In June 2019, he was sentenced, despite the absence of evidence, to 60 years in prison.

Scant information is available on his detention and he may currently be at the dire Black Beach (Playa Negra) prison in the capital, Malabo — a prison notorious throughout Africa for the most horrific torture and how little food detainees are given.

His trial likely failed to meet international standards and it would be reasonable to suspect that a confession was extracted under torture and without access to a trusted lawyer.

On 29 January 2024, the Vice-President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Nguema, paid an official visit to Italy to attend the Italy-Africa Summit.

In 2016, Interpol issued an arrest warrant against him for corruption and money laundering.

In 2017, a French court sentenced him in absentia to three years in prison.

In the light of the above, does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have information on the detention conditions of Italian citizen Fulgencio Obiang Esono in Equatorial Guinea?

Submitted: 5.12.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(9 March 2026)

The EU is closely following the political and social developments in Equatorial Guinea, paying particular attention to aspects related to the defence of human rights, to which it attaches the greatest importance.

The EU, together with the Member States, monitors the specific situation of the EU citizens in prison (dual nationals in some cases) through their relevant consular authorities and closely follows the situation of political prisoners. It has raised with Equatorial Guinea the need to fully respect international standards for detainees.

Concerning the situation of Mr Fulgencio Obiang Esono, the EU Delegation in Cameroon is in contact with the relevant Italian authorities.

Access to places of detention and the follow-up of individual cases requires time and frequent exchanges at various levels with the competent authorities. In this context, consular assistance, particularly in cases involving dual nationality, is pursued through ongoing dialogue and established diplomatic channels.

The High Representative/Vice-President remains committed to pursuing all available diplomatic channels, in contact with authorities and civil society both at the central level and through the EU Delegation to Cameroon, to ensure that detainees conditions respect human rights.
