

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-005043/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Francisco Assis (S&D)
(21 December 2025)

Subject: Arbitrary detention of Irish-Togolese dual citizen Abdoul-Aziz Goma in Togo, and the deterioration of his health

Abdoul-Aziz Goma, an Irish-Togolese dual citizen and human rights defender, has been detained arbitrarily in Togo since December 2018. In September 2025, Parliament adopted an urgent resolution explicitly acknowledging his case.

Mr Goma began a second hunger strike on 8 November 2025, joined by more than 30 others protesting their arbitrary detention. He has since been in and out of hospital, where medical tests have confirmed that his health is deteriorating rapidly and dramatically.

Despite the fact that Mr Goma is eligible for early release given the number of years he has spent in pretrial detention, authorities have not responded to the formal request his lawyers submitted earlier this year. Neither has Mr Goma benefited from a pardon on humanitarian grounds, despite being included in a list of prisoners in poor health to be considered for such a pardon. In early September, an Irish diplomat was refused permission to visit Mr Goma in prison despite having received prior permission to do so.

We fear these are signs that EU action is falling short. Therefore, we ask:

What additional actions are being taken to put pressure on the Togolese authorities to fully implement the actions called for in Parliament's resolution, namely to release Mr Goma immediately and to facilitate his urgent medical evacuation?

Submitted: 22.12.2025

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

The EU is pleased to report that the Irish Deputy Head of Mission in Abuja (accredited to Togo) confirmed that Mr Goma was released on 1 January 2026 as part of a Presidential grace to release more than 1 500 prisoners. The individual is safe and currently receiving appropriate care in Togo.

The EU had been following this case ⁽¹⁾ from the moment of the detention in December 2018, in close cooperation and consultation with the Irish authorities, the Irish Embassy in Nigeria and Member States present in Lomé.

The EU has conducted relentless diplomatic efforts in Brussels and in Lomé, and the EU Delegation to Togo has provided regular support to the Irish authorities throughout, for instance by organising consular visits to prison.

The EU will continue to advocate for and promote the respect of human rights, rule of law and due judicial procedures in Togo and in the region. The EU will also continue to raise these matters with relevant interlocutors in various fora.

⁽¹⁾ [https://oeil.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/en/procedure-file?reference=2025/2862\(RSP\)](https://oeil.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/en/procedure-file?reference=2025/2862(RSP)).