

Brussels, 10 JAN. 2019
A(2018)5690014-6386506

Ms Ana Gomes
Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats
European Parliament

Dear Ana,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 7 November 2018 concerning the case of Mr Alfredo Okenve.

Please rest assured that the EEAS was fully aware of the situation: Mr Okenve was also the Vice-President of an NGO that is successfully implementing an EU- financed project in the field of Human Rights in Equatorial Guinea. By the time your letter was received, a meeting with the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea (H.E. Carmelo Nvono) had already been scheduled for Friday 9 November. At the meeting the EEAS asked the Ambassador for a thorough investigation into the circumstances of the attack.

The Ambassador denied being aware of the attack and regretted that the case was not mentioned during the visit of the Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea (PDGE), Mr Jeronimo Osa Osa, to the European Parliament that same week.

The case of Mr Okenve was also raised during the bilateral "Dialogue Session" (EU-EG) held in Malabo on 26-27 November. On that occasion, the authorities ensured the EU that they would investigate the case on condition that a formal complaint be made to the Equatorial Guinea Police forces. At the same time, they complained that they had only been informed of the alleged attack by international media and contacts from foreign embassies.

In spite of some positive measures taken recently, the general situation of Human Rights in Equatorial Guinea remains critical. A gradual resumption of bilateral relations, with the objective, among others, of establishing a deeper dialogue on human rights issues seems appropriate. In this regard, I can reassure you that no opportunity will be missed to reiterate the importance we attach to the respect of EU fundamental values.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini