Statement by the Spokesperson on the human rights situation in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

The continuing restrictions of freedoms and arrests, in particular of political opponents, taking place in Equatorial Guinea following the elections of November 2017, represent a source of serious concern. To this day, over 130 people are reported as arbitrarily remaining in detention. The death under police custody of Mr. Ebee Ela, a member of the opposition party 'Ciudadanos por la Innovación', confirms the serious deterioration of the human rights situation in the country. The competent authorities of Equatorial Guinea should properly investigate, without delay, and clarify the causes of his death.

Following the worrying destabilisation attempt in December 2017, the EU takes note of the indication by the Equatoguinean authorities that the ongoing investigations involving people suspected are being conducted in full respect of international law, right of the defence and of fair trial.

In view of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) foreseen for 2019, the EU encourages the authorities of Equatorial Guinea to make concrete progress on the recommendations of the 2014 UPR and expresses its readiness to support these efforts. As a member of the United Nations Security Council, Equatorial Guinea is expected to take all necessary steps to fulfil its international obligations regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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