

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1773/07

by Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Inter-Rwandan dialogue

More than 10 years after the end of the genocide and of the war which began in 1990, there is no escaping the conclusion that the Rwandan Government has not embarked on a process of democratisation, dialogue and national reconciliation. Indeed, the reverse is true: fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and civil and political rights, are disregarded. Tens of thousands of people are still in prison, on charges of genocide, and some have been held for more than 10 years without even being provided with documents concerning their case or a lawyer. Moreover, Rwanda's involvement in the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including its occupation of the eastern part of the country, which is particularly rich in raw materials, is well documented.

Given that many violations of human rights, crimes against humanity and war crimes have been committed both in Rwanda and the Great Lakes region, does the Commission not see a need for inter-Rwandan political dialogue, involving forces active in the country and refugees from the three ethnic groups making up the diaspora, with a view to shaping the country's future?

Does the Commission plan to take steps to bring such a dialogue about, or will it support international calls for inter-Rwandan dialogue as the start of a process designed to end impunity and establish a democratic governance system based on respect for human rights and the rule of law?

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