

**Question for written answer E-008680/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights defenders in Colombia

According to various international organisations, there has been a significant increase in threats and violence against land claimants and human rights defenders in Colombia in recent months.

Two land claimants – Enrique Cabezas and Yomaira Mendoza – along with their relatives and members of the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace (Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz) have received death threats after having denounced banana, palm oil and livestock entrepreneurs who have seized land around Curbaradó. The two claimants have received 78 death threats and survived four attempts on their lives, and have taken refuge in Spain.

The Colombian Attorney-General's Office has not responded to the denunciations of illegal monitoring and violence to which both claimants have been subjected.

Article 1 of the Trade Agreement between the EU and Colombia and Peru (the conclusion of which was approved by way of Decision 2012/735/EU) centres around respect for human rights in the internal policies of the two sides to the Agreement.

Will the High Representative therefore draw attention to the inaction of the Colombian state in cases of violence against human rights defenders and land claimants?

Does the High Representative not believe that the human rights clauses set out in the EU-Colombia bilateral agreement should be applied?