

Question for written answer E-006503/2015

to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Serious situation facing human rights defenders in Colombia

The situation facing human rights defenders in Colombia continues to deteriorate. According to the latest quarterly report by the *Somos Defensores* programme, in the first three months of this year 19 human rights defenders were murdered, 20 were attacked and 249 received threats. A total of 295 individual attacks were recorded. Compared with last year, there has been a serious increase in both the number of threats (54 in the same period in 2014) and the number of murders (16 in the same period in 2014).

In spite of these warnings, our repeated questions and the fact that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is 'concerned by the lack of results of criminal investigations into violations against defenders, in particular threats', we are still waiting for the High Representative to make a public pronouncement expressing her serious concern at the situation and seeking progress on investigations, protection and prevention of these attacks.

1. What is the High Representative waiting for in order to react publicly to this serious situation?
2. What concrete measures is the European Commission planning to take in respect of Article 1 of the Trade Agreement between the EU and Colombia and Peru?