

**Question for written answer E-009191/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

**Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL) and Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Assaults and threats to human rights defenders in Colombia

Andrea Torres is a Colombian human rights lawyer who works at the Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation defending the families of victims of enforced disappearances.

On 16 April, at a public gathering, her computer and a case containing important documents were stolen, and on 22 May she received telephone threats at the Foundation saying that they were going to kill her and everyone who worked with her.

This is not an isolated case as since 2010 attacks and threats against human rights defenders have been on the increase and last year as many as 626 assaults were recorded.

Many of those under the greatest threat receive physical protection from the State and in spite of the need for these measures, the human rights defenders insist that until they are combined with political measures, such as investigating those responsible for the attacks against them, defending fundamental rights will continue to be a high-risk activity in Colombia.

1. How is the High Representative going to put pressure on the Colombian institutions to ensure the protection of these persons, whose role is so important in the peace process?
2. Is the High Representative going to put pressure on the Colombian authorities for these circumstances to be brought to justice and punished?