

**Question for written answer E-012839/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Murder of the Guarani-Kaiowá human rights defender Semião Fernandes Vilhalva

Around 30 000 members of the Guarani-Kaiowá indigenous people live in extreme poverty in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul. They have no access to their ancestral lands and are confined to small strips of territory squeezed between agri-industrial ranches. Some Guarani have no land at all and subsist in roadside camps. There has been a shocking wave of suicides in recent years. Some communities have attempted to recover small portions of their land, but they face a violent response from ranchers. Dozens of Guarani activists have been murdered in recent years. The latest victim was Semião Fernandes Vilhalva, who was killed in the municipality of Antônio João on 29 August. An indigenous leader, he was shot in the face while trying to find his son during a peaceful land recuperation operation.

- What action will the VP/HR take in response to this and other murders of Guarani-Kaiowá human rights defenders, bearing in mind the rights enshrined in Articles 1 and 12 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders?
- What action will the Commission take to prevent violence against indigenous peoples defending their right to access their ancestral lands?