

Question for written answer E-015753/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Peace and the outlawing of demonstrations

The increase in the number of public demonstrations in Colombia over the past few years has led to protests being outlawed and legislation introduced under which the rights of those taking part in demonstrations can be infringed.

In 2012 some 542 people were imprisoned on grounds relating to protests, and in 2013 the number was almost 3 000. The use of non-lethal weapons at demonstrations has left hundreds of people with permanent physical injuries. There have been reports of abuse against women and children in rural areas, as well as intimidation of local residents. Between January and May 2015, some 33 cases of police brutality against civilians were reported during demonstrations.

Given that a public demonstration is a legitimate expression of citizenship, giving people a chance to demand that their rights be upheld and make their voices heard in peacetime:

How has the EU addressed this issue in its dialogue with Colombia? And how has it expressed its requirements as regards upholding human rights?

What undertakings has the Colombian Government made and how are the European institutions following them up?