

Question for written answer E-000844/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Jimmy Ortiz

In plenary on 20 January 2016, Parliament passed Resolution No 2015/3033(RSP) in support of the peace process in Colombia, in which it recognises 'the efforts made by Colombia's institutions to make progress in ensuring that human rights are fully and permanently upheld.'

However, the government's efforts would appear to be insufficient, as the intolerable persecution of trade unionists, political activists and human rights defenders – such as Jimmy Ortiz – continues. Mr Ortiz, a young agrarian trade union leader, has been harassed and threatened and, upon reporting this to the authorities, was insulted and had his identity card confiscated, in violation of Law No 962 of 2005, specifically Article 18 prohibiting the retaining of documents.

What view does the EESA take of this? Will the High Representative convey to Eamon Gilmore, the EU's special envoy, the need for the Colombian Government to cease the harassment and persecution of activists, trade unionists and human rights defenders forthwith?