

**Question for written answer E-002022/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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

Subject: VP/HR - Assassination of Berta Cáceres in Honduras: impunity, constant human rights violations, and exploitation and pillaging by multinationals in Honduras

Berta Cáceres – an indigenous peoples' leader, a human rights defender and a defender of peasant farmer movements against the exploitation and pillaging by multinationals in Honduras – was murdered yesterday, 3 March 2016.

Berta spoke out against the constant threats, attacks and murders that human rights defenders, journalists and community leaders suffer in Honduras. Just last week, following the murder of several leaders in her community, she denounced the impunity with which paramilitary commandos operate under the lax attitude of the current government and its failure to act.

Since the 2009 coup d'état against Zelaya, human rights violations and a climate of impunity with no justice have continued to grow with the complicit silence of a European Union that looks the other way if the governments concerned are allied to the economic interests of the USA and the EU.

Will the Vice-President/High Representative demand an independent investigation by the Honduran Government into these murders and an ambitious and effective programme of measures to protect leaders whose lives are threatened?

What measures has the EU Delegation in Honduras put into play to implement the Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders and monitor the activities of European transnational firms?

Does she plan to implement a new 'PASS' programme focused on protection of human rights defenders and journalists and thereby put an end to the prevailing impunity?