

**Question for written answer E-002394/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Murder of 29 leading leftwing activists in Colombia

In Colombia, 29 leading leftwing activists were murdered in early March 2016. On 13 March, Aída Avella, former President of the Patriotic Union (UP) party, condemned the killings, saying they could be the start of a new political purge.

It should be stressed that two of the victims were not of legal age. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is therefore monitoring eight of these murder cases.

The Colombian Government says it will set up human rights guarantee committees in 14 departments, but Ms Avella believes that the situation means they are required throughout the country. These violent acts and their being carried out with impunity constitute an attack on the peace process currently underway in the country. We have some questions about this upsurge in criminality.

Is the EU keeping tabs on this increased political violence in Colombia?

What steps will the VP/HR take to ask the Colombian Government to carry out transparent investigations, whose results might shed light on these events and prevent this sort of criminal act being repeated while the peace process is underway?