

**Question for written answer E-003016/2016  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Francisco Assis (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Salvadorian woman sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for murder because of a miscarriage

In 2008 a Salvadorian woman, Teodora del Carmen Vázquez, was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for murder. The 'crime' which led the Salvadorian courts to punish her so harshly was that her baby had been stillborn. At the time when this case occurred, Teodora was aged 24, and nine months pregnant. On the actual day she was not taken to hospital until a few hours after the miscarriage and the police immediately arrested her on suspicion of murder. Because she could not afford it, she had not been under proper medical supervision during her pregnancy. For the same reason she was denied the possibility of effective defence.

In El Salvador abortion is invariably a crime, even in cases of miscarriage, rape, incest, danger to life, or serious and fatal fetal malformation.

In view of this wrongful, inhuman sentence, which has forced Teodora to spend eight years in captivity and separated her from her 12-year-old son, and bearing in mind that the Salvadorian National Assembly may grant a pardon, as it recently has done in similar cases:

- What steps will the EU take in order to press for the release of Teodora del Carmen Vázquez?