

Question for written answer E-005358/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Killing of the activist Nilce de Souza in Brazil: increasing climate of impunity and human rights violations

Violence against human rights activists is on the rise. Nilce de Souza Magalhães' body was found on 21 June 2016 in the Jirau hydroelectric reservoir in Porto Velho, northern Brazil. De Souza led the Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB) and had been consistently critical of the human rights violations perpetrated by the consortium responsible for the power plant; he had been missing since January 2016. Roughly two months ago his self-confessed murderer escaped from prison.

In 2015, some 4000 disputes over land which led to 50 deaths were reported in Brazil; there were also more than 3000 disputes concerning water.

A total of 23 people have received death threats and four attempted murders have been reported. Against this background, the EU's inaction and indifference to the situation, which amounts to tacit complicity, is worrying.

Will the EU ask the Brazilian Government to inform it of the results of the impartial investigations into this case?

Will the VP/HR call for protective measures, in an effort to prevent further murders of human rights activists, and more impartial investigations, in an effort to end impunity?