

**Question for written answer E-005660/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Protection of human rights activists in Honduras and the case of Lesbia Yaneth Urquía

On 6 July 2016, the environmental activist Lesbia Yaneth Urquía, who had been campaigning against various hydroelectric projects in the La Paz department, was murdered.

Her killing took place against a backdrop of extreme risk for human rights activists, of whom 114 have been murdered in the past 10 years, but in only 4% of cases has anyone been convicted.

According to Michel Forst, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Honduras has become one of the most dangerous countries for such activists. Meanwhile, NGOs are reporting that the Honduran Government is ignoring the IACHR's demand that it adopt policies to tackle the situation.

Given that supporting human rights defenders, particularly in Central America, is one of the EU's foreign policy priorities, can the VP/HR say:

1. What specific measures have been taken to protect human rights activists, as called for by Stavros Lambrinidis on his last visit to Honduras?
2. When might those measures be implemented?
3. What action is being taken to push for an independent international investigation into the recent killings in Honduras of activists such as Berta Cáceres, René Martínez and Lesbia Yaneth Urquía?