

Question for written answer E-005922/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Imprisonment of photographer Felipe Durán

Activists from the Association of Independent Journalists and the National Union of Independent Media Freelancers in Chile have spoken out against persecution and violence carried out by state security services. A number of their members have been detained, intimidated and assaulted. The photographer Felipe Durán was detained in September 2015. He is accused of possessing weapons and explosives, but there is no proof and there has been no due process.

Mr Durán had been involved in defending the rights of the Mapuche people: his photographs show the circumstances in which the Mapuche are living. He was detained a few days after he was threatened by anti-Mapuche groups.

The authorities responsible for providing evidence against Mr Durán were unable to find any, but rather than freeing him, they extended his detention to gather evidence and set a new date for the trial. They have not allowed him out of prison to await trial, stating that he is 'a risk to society'.

What specific steps will the EU take to call on the Chilean Government to supply the findings of impartial investigations and to ask for guarantees as regards freedom of speech?

Will the EU call for protective measures to be taken to stop further detention of and attacks against Mapuche rights activists?