

**Question for written answer E-007429/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Detention of Dalila Mérida

On 24 September 2016, the Guatemalan activist and human rights defender Dalila Mérida was arrested as she left a university after attending a meeting of the National Assembly of the Guatemalan Peasant Unity Committee (CUC).

Dalila Mérida is the CUC regional coordinator. She is currently working to protect the rights of 300 farmers from various communities nationwide who are former employees of the San Gregorio estate in Quetzaltenango, whose pensions have been stolen by the family who own the estate where they were working and who are fighting to have their rights protected and for the return of what belongs to them.

The arrest of Dalila Mérida comes as a result of her lawful actions being criminalised by mafia companies which are exploiting small farmers. The CUC has called her detention unjust and illegal, as she has always fought with peaceful means.

1. Has the VP/HR received any information about this matter through the EU Delegation in Guatemala?
2. Will the EU take any specific measures to end the criminalisation of human rights defenders in Guatemala and protect their rights?
3. And in other countries in Latina America?