

Question for written answer E-008287/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Murder of a police officer and destabilisation in Venezuela

The opposition in Venezuela is destabilising the country and violating constitutional and democratic order by encouraging street violence and disregarding the National Assembly.

During protests against the Government on 26 October 2016, opposition demonstrators shot and killed the police officer José Alejandro Molina. A number of officers were injured. The opposition carried out violent attacks in Caracas and other Venezuelan states. Members of the opposition were protesting because the National Electoral Council had temporarily suspended the recall referendum against President Maduro, following rulings in six regional courts that fake signatures had been included in the first stage of that process.

In August, the Supreme Court found Parliament in contempt because it had gone against a ruling by the court's Electoral Chamber not to swear in three MPs linked to electoral fraud accusations. Since then, action taken by the National Assembly has been null and void, although it intends to open a trial against President Maduro in an attempt to remove him from office. The Government has denounced that move as a parliamentary coup d'état. The Venezuelan Army have expressed their support for the president and the country's constitution.

What is the Commission's view on the violent attacks stirred up by the opposition?

What specific action will it take to support the dialogue backed by Unasur (the Union of South American Nations)?