

**Question for written answer E-002805/2017/rev.1**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights situation in Guatemala

On 8 March 2017, a tragic fire at Hogar Seguro Virgen de la Asunción, a children's home in San José Pinula (Guatemala), left 41 girls dead. The shelter had a long history of children escaping and allegations of child abuse.

A group of girls staged a protest and were locked in one of the rooms. A mattress caught fire. The authorities are still investigating who made the decision to lock the room and why nobody freed the girls once the fire broke out.

So far, the Guatemalan public prosecutor's office has charged former Social Welfare Secretary Carlos Rodas, former Deputy Secretary Anahí Kepler and the shelter's former director Santos Torres with manslaughter, failure to fulfil duties and mistreatment of minors.

The day before the fire, the Office of the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman had asked judge Rocío Murillo to inspect the home in connection to escape attempts by at least 50 children. Murillo failed to carry out the inspection, and was suspended for a minimum of twenty days without pay.

1. What is the EU's position on the human rights situation in Guatemala?
2. What steps will the EU take to obtain reliable information and details of investigations into these events from the Guatemalan Government?