

**Question for written answer E-007716/2017**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Murder of community leaders in Colombia

Every day land claimant leaders and human rights and environmental activists are being killed in Colombia (there have been over 200 such murders since January 2016). This violence appears to be particularly targeted against members of the Afro-Colombian, indigenous and peasant farming communities. A further two land claimant leaders in Urabá were murdered in the space of 12 days. Both of them had previously reported receiving numerous threats after speaking out against local businessmen who had links to neoparamilitary groups, public officials and state security forces. However, the Colombian authorities did not do enough to prevent the killings.

Other community leaders in Curbaradó, Jiguamiandó, La Larga Tumaradó, Pedeguita y Mancilla and Cacarica have reported receiving threats from the neoparamilitary group Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC), while progress in the land restitution process and adequate prevention and protection plans are yet to materialise.

1. Does the EU plan to publicly condemn these killings and insist on safety guarantees for activists and community leaders? Will the EU delegation consider making another visit to the region and giving priority to Urabá in order to monitor both the investigations and the implementation of genuine prevention and protection plans?
2. Taking into account its financial and political engagement in the peace process, will the EU consider demanding results from the Colombian government, particularly relating to point 3.4 on the dismantling of paramilitary successor groups?