

Question for written answer E-007730/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Irregular situation in Honduras after elections on 26 November 2017

The situation in Honduras after the elections on 26 November 2017 is extraordinarily worrying: no official declaration of which candidate won, accusations of fraud and irregularities, a state of siege declared, peaceful demonstrations, uproar, repression, chaos and instability. The excessive use of force has resulted in at least 14 deaths, with more than 20 people injured and over 100 arrests.

With 95 % of all election returns counted, the President in office, Juan Orlando Hernández, declared himself the winner. On 27 November 2017, with almost 60 % of electoral returns accounted for, official figures from the Supreme Electoral Court gave the Opposition Alliance (Salvador Nasralla) a 5 % lead over the National Party. Several weeks later, the results have still not been published. The opposition warns the election returns may have been tampered with and speaks of fraud.

The human rights situation has gone seriously downhill since the 2009 coup d'état against former president Manuel Zelaya: a high murder rate for social activists, journalists, and environmental and human rights defenders; a rise in gender-based violence and attacks on LGBTI persons; and persecution and harassment.

What steps will the EU take to call on Honduras to clarify the irregular situation the country has been in since the elections?

What is the EU's position on the repeated violation of human rights in Honduras?