

**Question for written answer E-001078/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Murder of three human rights defenders in Mexico

On 12 February 2018 in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, a group of armed men attacked a vehicle carrying four human rights defenders who were members of the Committee for the Defence of Indigenous Rights (CODEDI), a Mexican organisation that for the past 20 years has been working to denounce the abuse committed by hydroelectric and mining companies in lands that traditionally belong to indigenous communities. Three members of CODEDI were killed in the attack, two of them minors, and a fourth, Abraham Ramírez Vázquez, an indigenous leader and co-founder of CODEDI, was injured. Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for human rights defenders. In the six years of Enrique Peña Nieto's Presidency there have been at least 106 extrajudicial executions and 81 forced disappearances of human rights defenders.

In the light of these circumstances, how will the EU contribute to ensuring that the Mexican authorities open a speedy and impartial investigation into these killings, that they guarantee the safety of Abraham Ramírez Vázquez, and that they put an end to the widespread impunity that characterises crimes committed against human rights defenders in Mexico?